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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Calls For Agreement With Lebanon

NC0207183291 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Nicosia, July 2 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has called again for an agreement with the Lebanese Government that would preserve the right of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon to carry arms against Israel.

Mr. 'Arafat, in a wide-ranging interview with the London-based MIDEAST MIRROR received in Cyprus, made the remarks in Tunis on Monday, hours before fierce clashes broke out between Lebanese troops and Palestinian fighters.

The combatants have been holding up a Lebanese Army deployment in the Sidon region of southern Lebanon—home to two Palestinian refugee camps—by refusing to abandon positions which face Israeli lines further east.

Dozens of people were killed in the clashes which continued on Tuesday, after the Army's peaceful takeover of the the city of Sidon from the Moslem militia which had controlled it since 1985.

"We are making intensive contacts with our Lebanese and Syrian brothers ... in the hope of arriving at an agreement to preserve the security of the camps, maintain the Palestinian gun for resistance against the Israeli occupation and at the same time preserve Lebanese sovereignty and Lebanese Army control over every handspan of Lebanese territory," Mr. 'Arafat said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is demanding an agreement guaranteeing the rights of 350,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, where the government has said an accord would only be discussed after guerrillas disband.

The Lebanese Government is hoping the deployment will secure a withdrawal of some 1,000 Israeli troops controlling a self-declared "security zone" inside southern Lebanon along the international border.

Turning to U.S. peace efforts to convene a Middle East regional peace conference, the PLO leader said the current initiative had little chances of succeeding as it had neared a deadend.

"What we have is not an American peace conference or an American peace initiative. We have an Israeli plan under an American flag: an Israeli plan to settle the regional crisis on an Israeli basis and on Israeli conditions.

"The whole initiative has receded," Mr. 'Arafat said because of Israeli intransigence.

Asked, however, if he was still ready to cooperate he added: "I will deal with everything as it happens."

He also accused Israel of stealing the waters of Lebanese rivers that spring in occupied territory and building settlements in Lebanon for Ethiopian Jewish immigrants.

On the condition of Palestinians in Kuwait, he said he feared a Palestinian reaction when what he called Kuwaiti crimes against the Palestinians become known.

'Arafat Sends Appeal to Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0307192291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent urgent cables calling upon President Muhamad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution, to work toward stopping the new massacre that is now taking place in the camps of our Palestinian Arab people in the Sidon region of southern Lebanon. Following is the text of the cable and appeal:

I am writing to you in a hurry in this cable of appeal, calling on you to work to stop the new massacre that is now taking place in our camps in the Sidon region of southern Lebanon, in spite of the fact that we had previously announced agreement with and facilitated the process of deployment of the Lebanese Army in the city and its suburbs. However, we were surprised when, ever since the day before yesterday—1 July 1991—this army opened intensive fire on our camps and positions, attacking us from every direction and with all types of weapons. In doing so they forgot the positive stance that we had adopted from the beginning on the subject of the deployment of the Army and the imposition of Lebanese sovereignty on all Lebanon's territories.

This is a stance that we had declared in our meetings with Lebanese officials and had been declaring ever since our meeting with the Lebanese foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him during the meeting of Arab foreign ministers, which was held in the middle of last May in Cairo. We had kept in contact through messengers and mediators and through our meetings with Lebanese Army officials in the south, whom we had informed about this Palestinian fraternal and constructive readiness concerning the deployment of the Army. This had been one of the basic subjects that our delegation covered during its last visit to Damascus. We had hoped, and are still hoping, to reach a fraternal agreement with the brother Lebanese officials, and so preserve the supreme national interest of confronting the Israeli enemy and preserving the interests of all.

I turn to you at your meetings in Alexandria with this urgent appeal to exert efforts to stop this flagrant aggression against us and our camps. We are confident of your concern to stop the spilling of Palestinian and Lebanese blood, a matter that is in the national and pan-Arab interests of the Lebanese and Palestinians. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Sends 'Urgent' Message to World Leaders

LD0307181891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of Palestine, has sent an urgent message to the Soviet leadership on the regrettable developments in the Lebanese south as a result of the aggression being commited by the Lebanese Army against Palestinian camps and places. The message was handed over to his excellency the Soviet ambassador when he was received yesterday evening in Tunis.

The brother president Abu-Ammar has also sent an urgent message to the Chinese leadership on the regrettable development of the current situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the aggression being waged by the Lebanese Army on the Palestinian camps and areas. The message was delivered to his excellency the Chinese charge d'affaires in Tunis when he was received yesterday evening.

The brother president Abu-Ammar has sent an urgent message to the French Government on the regrettable development of the current situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the aggression being waged by the Lebanese Army against Palestinian camps and areas. It was delivered to the French ambassador to Tunisia when he was received yesterday evening.

Within this context, the brother president Abu-Ammar has sent a verbal message to the British Government on the regrettable development of the current situation in southern Lebanon as a result of the aggression being waged by the Lebanese Army against Palestinian camps and areas, to be delivered also to the U.S. Administration.

It also contained an overview of the Palestinian attitude, of the dialogue which used to be open between us and the Lebanese Government, and also of Lebanese and Arab mediation and good services efforts that were once exerted in this respect—in addition to the efforts exerted by the PLO to facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south, and in particular in the region of Sidon and to the east of it. The message warned against the gravity of the continuation of this aggression aimed at the camps, as a result of which a number of martyrs fell and a number of people were injured. It was conveyed by brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the president, when he met his excellency the British ambassador to Tunisia yesterday evening.

Qaddumi Summons Syrian Envoy on 'Aggression'

LD0307213191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has summoned the Syrian ambassador to Algeria and conveyed to him an urgent message from the Palestinian leadership to the Syrian leadership relating to developments in the regrettable situation in south Lebanon and the aggression committed against the Palestinian camps by the Lebanese Army, whose deployment in the southern region—as the Syrian leadership already knows—the PLO facilitated a long time ago, whether in Sidon, Tyre, al-Zahrani, or to the east of Sidon.

Brother Abu-al-Lutf asked the ambassador to convey to the Syrian leadership the importance of exerting special efforts to stop this aggression and to solve all outstanding issues in a brotherly spirit.

'Arafat Asks Hassan To Intervene in Lebanon

LD0407190291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The brother president leader Abu Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received at noon today the ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Tunis. The meeting focused on the regrettable developments in southern Lebanon following the Lebanese Army's aggression against our refugees and groups, despite the PLO efforts to facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Army and the extension of Lebanese legality to all Lebanese territories.

The brother president leader asked him to convey to his majesty King Hassan a Palestinian request on the need for his personal intervention, given his responsibilities within the framework of the al-Ta'if accord and his majesty's weight and influence, to put an end to what is taking place.

PLO Calls For 'Urgent Measures' in Lebanon

LD0407212391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] An official PLO spokesman has stated the following: The PLO Executive Committee held an emergency meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, which was devoted to the examination of the latest developments in southern Lebanon and the attacks, aggression, and siege against Ayn al-Hilwa and the al-Miyah and Miyah refugee camps, which have caused casualties among the inhabitants of the camps despite the PLO's positive stance from the outset to facilitate the task of the deployment of the Lebanese army and its readiness to continue full cooperation in this respect.

While expressing regret and protest over such a tragic development, which constitutes a dangerous setback despite the PLO's positive cooperation since the deployment of the Army in the regions of Iqlim al-Tufah, Tyre, Sidon, al-Zahrani and al-Nabatiyyah, the PLO affirms that resolving the situation requires urgent measures to stop aggression against the two refugee camps and their inhabitants and to end the seige around them and around al-Hamshari and Sa'd Sa'il hospitals, to reconnect water and electricity to them, and to allow the removal of the injured from there.

The PLO furthermore welcomes the holding of a dialogue to resolve all pending issues with a spirit of eagerness to safeguard Palestinian-Lebanese brotherhood and to guarantee the march of the peace process in fraternal Lebanon and put an end to the Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon.

We hope that resolutions adopted by the Lebanese Council of Ministers today will be a positive step toward this end.

The PLO Executive Committee will continue contacts with concerned Arab and international parties with the aim of arriving at a fraternal and positive Lebanese-Palestinian understanding.

Spokesman Remarks on 'Treacherous Attack' on Sidon

LD0307193791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has announced the following: The Lebanese Army had continued its aggression against the Palestinian camps in the Sidon region and places of Palestinian presence in that region. Fierce and intensive shelling with heavy artillery continued all day at the rate of 30 shells per minute, while tanks and armored vehicles rushed to attack places of Palestinian presence on the pretext of the Lebanese deployment in Sidon and the east of Sidon—to which the PLO has declared on more than one occasion its agreement, exerting great efforts to reach a brotherly agreement that preserves the rights of all, and avoids bloodshed.

As a result of this treacherous attack, great numbers of martyrs and wounded have fallen, most of them civilians. In addition more than 200 Palestinians had been detained, for the sole reason that they are Palestinians, in Sidon and its environs.

The military pressure is still continuing on the Palestinian camps and the places of Palestinian presence, and the intensive shelling of the camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah is still continuing.

DFLP Claims Responsibility for Attack on Israel

JN0407055791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has claimed responsibility for yesterday's attack on a military position in northern Israel at a point where the Jewish state's borders meet with the Syrian and Lebanese borders.

The DFLP affirmed that two Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were wounded in the attack, while Israeli sources said only one Israeli soldier was killed.

Deployment Said Conspiracy Against Palestinians

LD0407220491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Brothers: We have agreed to the entry and deployment of the Lebanese Army in Al-Tuffah District, Al-Zahrani, Tyre, and all parts of south Lebanon—although these sections are small in number and lightly equipped—out of conviction in principle to the deployment of the Lebanese Army, the extension of its control over all its territory, and the sovereignty of Lebanese authority over all Lebanese territories.

Again, we agreed to the new intensive entry of the Army to the east of Sidon so it deploys facing the Israeli forces and Lahd's forces. We have facilitated this operation ever since these forces crossed south of the Awwali river, past Sidon, and then to the east of Sidon.

But this army, instead of fighting against the Israeli forces and Lahd's forces, turned and opened fire on the camps and places of Palestinian presence after the Lebanese Government had stopped the dialogue that was taking place between it and the PLO. The endeavours of many parties—Lebanese and Arab—to arrive at a brotherly agreement that preserves the rights of all and the dignity of all, and enables the Lebanese authority to extend its authority over all Lebanese territories, beginning with the north sector of the south down to the border strip, was also stopped.

What has happened is a deliberate and treacherous operation against the Palestinian existence, in the interest of Israeli objectives and ambitions in Lebanon and in the region, and will only complicate the issue. Is this what the Lebanese Government wants, or what the people who push the Lebanese Government want, even though the PLO has spared no effort, left no brotherly mediation and constructive action without positively responding to it, because it understood the scheme to divert the issue from its course and change it from an Arab-Israeli conflict to an inter-Arab conflict once again? In whose interest and on whose orders?

All the visible indications in south Lebanon make it clear that the al-Hirawi army is determined to go ahead with its preplanned scheme to end the civilian and military Palestinian presence in south Lebanon. It pursues this destructive course under the cloak of deployment for establishing control over all Lebanese territory on the pretext that the Palestinian presence in the south is an obstacle to the Lebanese Army's efforts to liberate the south from Israeli occupation.

Yesterday, the al-Hirawi army added a heinous crime to the series of crimes comitted against our people in Lebanon. This army shelled the Palestinian camps with heavy artillery, which resulted in the death and injury of scores of people, and in forcing hundreds of people, mostly women and children, to move.

Thus, the timing of the shelling and the contrived confrontation, after the government of al-Hirawi had

refused to have any dialogue with the PLO regarding the organization of the Palestinian civilian and military presence in Lebanon in accordance with the Cairo agreement of 1969, we say this timing, the insistence on the rejection of dialogue, and the act of opening fire on unarmed civilians in the camps reveals the huge conspiracy and confirms the premeditated evil intent against the inhabitants of the camps, who have been forced out of their homes, tortured and crucified, and whose blood has watered the all Lebanese soil.

As the scope of the conspiracy becomes wider, the PLO urges the Arab League, the Arab heads of state, and the permanent members of the Security Council, to work as quickly as possible to stop the bloodbaths and preserve the blood of Palestinians and Lebanese.

As we anxiously, painfully, and angrily follow what the masses of our people are being subjected to in the camps of the south, we hope that the Arab League and friendly states will hasten to put an end to the massacres to which the Palestinians are being subjected in the camps of corrugated metal sheets in south Lebanon. We hope that a dialogue with the Lebanese Government leading to the signing of an agreement to govern the civilian and military Palestinian presence on Lebanese territory.

PLO Said To Reject Baker Participation Offer

JN0507075591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Article by Hamadah Fara'inah in Amman]

[Excerpts] At a meeting under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, which concluded in Tunis at dawn yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee rejected a U.S. offer made by Secretary of State James Baker to a Palestinian delegation visiting Washington.

When he received the Palestinian delegation comprising Faysal al- Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi at the State Department, Secretary Baker proposed Palestinian participation in the peace conference as part of a delegation from inside the occupied territories provided that no member of the delegation is a Jerusalem resident, that the Palestinian figures are integrated into the Jordanian delegation, that the PLO makes no announcement of its relationship with the delegation, and that the integrated Palestinian members are accepted by the Israelis. Moreover, if the PLO wished to declare anything, it should do so only after the conference has started so Israel would not withdraw from the negotiations.

By such a proposal, the U.S. side has taken two steps backward. Earlier, it had endorsed the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on equal footing and enjoying public PLO support.

Also, Baker himself had accepted the formula of an independent Palestinian delegation when he proposed his five-point plan in December 1989. The Egyptian Government was the mediator at that time. [passage omitted]

With the PLO Executive Committee's rejection of Baker's proposals, the United States turns the penultimate page. Washington is awaiting the last page in the latest Bush-Baker settlement project, which will come from Damascus. What will the Syrian response to Bush's letter be? This is what the U.S. Administration is waiting for.

'Arafat Stresses Importance of Arab Solidarity

NC0507110591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Tunis, 5 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed the importance of clearing the Arab atmosphere now that the Gulf crisis has ended.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, 'Arafat said that the Arabs' progress toward this goal has been slow and noted the importance of Arab participation in the new world order. He said that Arabs can be part of the new world order if they can achieve a position of strength and solidarity.

Vengeance on Kuwaitis Not PLO 'Policy'

NC0407111591 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Report by Michael Adler]

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, July 4 (AFP)—The top PLO official in Kuwait Thursday condemned threats that Palestinian fundamentalists made in Jordan against Kuwaiti officials.

"This is not the policy of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization)," said Muhammad 'Abbud al-Jabir, the PLO deputy chief in Kuwait.

He was reacting to a "fatwa" or decree issued in Amman on Wednesday by a Palestinian Moslem fundamentalist group, which called for the execution of any Kuwaiti official responsible for mistreating Palestinians in the emirate.

Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, head of the Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Makdis, said in Amman that it was "legal to kill any member of the Kuwaiti Government for having participated in the torture or murder of Arabs in general or Palestinians in particular."

The Islamic Jihad Bayt al-Makdis is active in the Israeli-occupied territories and has claimed responsibility for several attacks against Israelis.

Mr. al-Jabir said "everyone should stop these statements which make the situation very hot and very dangerous."

He described Palestinians here, however, as feeling "every day that no one wants them in this country."

He said their reaction was one of wanting to leave rather than undertaking actions that could be seen as terrorist.

Mr. al-Jabir said the number of Palestinains leaving Kuwait for good was increasing to a rate of about 300 a day. [passage omitted]

Soviets Said To Pass U.S. Questions to PLO

JN0307073091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Jul 91 p 27

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] A Palestinian source in Amman said Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee, received from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh when he met with him in Moscow last Tuesday a list of questions from the U.S. Administration to the PLO.

He told AL-DUSTUR that the questions revolved round the political settlement and Palestinian representation, as well as other issues the source preferred not to talk about for the moment.

He said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will chair a PLO Executive Committee meeting to be held in Tunis in the next couple of days to discuss the American questions and formulate the appropriate answers to them, as well as to review a detailed report by Abu-Mazin regarding his talks in the Soviet capital. In addition, it will also discuss a number of issues dealing with the Palestine question and the arrest and torture campaigns to which the Palestinian community in Kuwait is being subjected.

The source adds: The Palestinian official Mahmud 'Abbas will arrive in Amman at the beginning of next week to inform ranking Jordanian officials of the contents of the U.S. questions and the results of his discussions with Soviet officials within the framework of continuing coordination and discussion between Jordan and the PLO on all issues proposed on the Arab and international arenas.

Responding to another question, the source said the Soviet leaders are playing an active role with the United States to overcome the obstacles before PLO participation and representation in a peace conference which the U.S. Administration is seeking to convene to solve the Middle East problems including the Palestine question.

He said that the PLO is ready to discuss all options if they lead to realizing the national demand of full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, he went on to say that the political efforts do not target the essence of the problem. What has been proposed so far is sitting around a table without any guarantees.

He went on to say that we are hoping the Soviets will play an effective role in conveying the Palestinian viewpoint to the U.S. Administration. He pointed out that there are Palestinian-U.S. contacts to convene a meeting in Washington to discuss what he called dotting the i's and crossing the t's of the issues dealt with during the Palestinian-U.S. talks in Jerusalem.

Algeria

Ghozali Addresses Assembly on Government Program

LD0407141191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The national event today is the presentation of the program of Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government to the emergency session of the National People's Assembly, the opening of which we present to you. [video shows delegates entering assembly building]

[Begin Speaker Abdelaziz Belkhadem recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, on whom we rely. Brothers and sisters, in these difficult circumstances through which our country is passing, and during this phase of tension through which we are passing prior to our marking of the independence anniversary—which we always hope will be among the festivals during which we mark the sacrifices of our people for the sake of restoring national independence, entrenching freedoms and values, and in defense of constants—in these circumstances our country is experiencing a difficult examination, which has continued for the last few weeks. During these weeks, the blood of our brothers has been spilled, brothers with whom we have a common nationalism, religion, and objectives. We pay homage to the souls of those who have fallen in defense of Algeria, in defense of the constants, in defense of dignity, and in defense of security and stability.

In accordance with the stipulations of the Constitution, the president of the republic requested the holding of an extraordinary session in order to debate the new government's plan of action. Also, in accordance with the stipulations of the internal regulations, I declare the extraordinary session open. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Following this opening, the head of government presented his program. We propose to you the following excerpts:

[Begin Ghozali recording] You are well aware, dear brothers and sisters, that no government is able to work without the effective participation of all citizens. This participation must be based on the precondition which consists in the fact that this government, whether it is liked or not, is considered as having emanated from their free choice, and is not considered to be imposed on their will. To accept this idea of free choice is also based on the citizen's conviction about this, while relying on the determination of this government in first convincing the people and second on its ability to convey its program to the people.

From this premise, you can understand my concern about dialogue and absolute openness regarding anything that bears upon the issues of national interest. Dialogue, because our people are keen on whoever is attentive to them, whoever understands them, addresses them as a responsible people and reveals the whole truth in a sincere way, with all the nice and bitter things involved. Openness, because we must put an end to the state of isolation the people were in. No issue of national importance can be successful unless it is adopted by all and is treated on that basis.

As for the priority aim, which consists of the preparation of legislative elections, I indicated to all those I met—and I reiterate it today—my desire to listen within the framework of a structure for dialogue that I intend to set up. I am saying that I want to listen to the ideas of all regarding the conditions and guarantees that should be secured, so that the free choice of the citizens and the cleanness of the elections are not doubted in the mind of any citizen.

What are these conditions, and what are those guarantees? My immediate answer is that I do not want to have any premature ideas. What matters to me, however, is the final result; that is, a project that acquires wide agreement and gives the citizens the strongest guarantees concerning the entire sincerity of the elections. I will obviously be glad to discuss them with you. In fact, the creation of the post of minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of relations with the National People's Assembly and associations is aimed at actually recording this dialogue and giving the exchange of viewpoints between us permanence and comprehensiveness. [end recording]

Ghozali Says Foreign Powers Undermine Stability

LD0407153191 London KUNA in Arabic 1124 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Algeria, 4 Jul (KUNA)—Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali has said that foreign powers directly helped to undermine the stability of Algeria during the Islamic demonstrations that took place in recent weeks.

In an interview with Algerian journalists last night, Ghozali said: The situation is extremely grave. National unity was threatened from the moment when foreign powers intervened, either through individuals or direct assistance, to destablize the situation in Algeria.

It is reported that since the declaration of the state of siege on 5 June, two Frenchmen, one Yemeni, one Sudanese, two Palestinians, one Libyan, one Tunisian, one American carrying a Swiss passport, one German, and a citizen of Benin were arrested, in the context of the Islamic movement.

The Algerian authorities reacted violently to a number of official Iranian statements, which were considered as an encouragement to the Islamic Salvation Front.

More on 'Normalization,' Arrests of Fundamentalists

LD0507091591 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 0600 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] The Algerian prime minister has confirmed his wish for democratization; he presented his program in

parliament yesterday. The authorities, however, are not easing their pressure on the fundamentalists. Dozens of people are being arrested, to the point that FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] members are taking cover. They may reappear today in the mosques for Friday prayers. Ulysse Argant reports from Algiers for France-Inter:

[Begin Argan recording] Normalization continues in Algiers to the tune of one to two hundred arrests daily. The FIS undoubtedly remains a legal party, but after having dealt a blow to its leadership, the authorities are purging its toughest elements at all levels. In the eastern suburb of Algiers, at Belcourt, at Badjarrah in the Cite de la Montagne where incidents were most serious, the order-keeping forces are still present.

Crossing those areas, one realizes that anger was most violent where poverty is most acute. Young children in rags play among derelict concrete blocks; on the walls there are inscriptions reading: "Madani forever," "Chadli murderer." A house with closed doors, deserted offices—it is the former FIS headquarters. The fundamentalists received 90 percent of the votes in these areas. Today they are in hiding, silent, and do not sleep at home for fear of being arrested.

The imams allowed to go free are the most moderate ones, men with whom the government thinks it may be able to negotiate. It will probably be Ahmet Said who will preach this afternoon at Babeloued during the Friday prayers. Two days ago he called for calm and dialogue, and so far he has been heard.

After one month of confrontations, the rest of the population is rather relieved. In the streets, young girls walk about wearing skirts and with their heads uncovered, which they have not done for a long time for fear of being harrassed by the fundamentalists. The curfew is certainly starting to weigh heavy: It is impossible to leave one's home after 2300 hours without being immediately arrested. But because one is afraid that the FIS might come to power, the state of seige is considered here as the lesser of two evils. The return to genuine democracy is for a later time. [end recording]

The two main leaders of the FIS will be tried by military courts. Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj are charged with fomenting an armed plot against state security.

Military Prosecution Issues Statement on Crimes

LD0407012191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] We begin the bulletin with a communique issued by the Blida Military Prosecution. It says:

Following the disturbances witnessed by the country, especially in the capital and its suburbs; following the serious excesses resulting from the indefinite strike called by some leaders of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and led by FIS official spokesman Abbasi Madani; and in view of the gravity of the offenses uncovered by the results of the preliminary investigations, there is direct implication of Abbasi Madani and Belhadj Ali and some of their followers in crimes and felonies infringing upon the security of the state and other serious offenses against people, money, and capital.

The communique adds: in view of the seriousness of the deeds attributed to every one of the above people, and since the nature of these factual findings is the responsibility of the military judicial bodies, the Military Prosecution in Blida had been informed about the case in accordance with the measures of Article 25, Paragraph Three of the military judicial law, and Article 11 of Presidential Decree No. 196/91 dated 4 June 1991, which includes the institution of the state of siege throughout the country. In order to put an end to all the questions and to avoid any interpretation of the issue, the Military Prosecution in Blida, having investigated the facts of the case, has forwarded the file of the case and all the material evidence to the military examining magistrate, who has informed every defendent of the findings attributed to him and ordered the placement of these people under preventive detention after taking their statements in accordance with the law.

FIS Council Statement on Ghozali Meeting

LD0407133691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Consultative Council issued a statement, signed by El-Hachemi Sahnouni, Sa'id Kichi, Mohamed Karrar, and Achour R'bihi. The public statement reports on a meeting between Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and members of the Consultative Council, during which a number of points were discussed, including in particular the demand for clarifications concerning the arrest of a number of the council's members, and the call for an end to the current arrests in the ranks of FIS and the release of detainees.

The statement says: The council commits itself to the continuation of the dialogue on firm foundations, and to solving all the outstanding issues by way of dialogue and in the spirit of responsibility. This facilitates the speedy return of security and stability to the country, the speedy reinstatement of dismissed workers, and the resumption by FIS of all its activities, and its recovery of all its cadres at the level of the homeland. The council appeals to FIS supporters and members to be patient and disciplined, not to react to provocations, and to block moves by opportunists, whose aim is to harm Islam.

The statement points out that a national conference of reassessment will be held in the next few days, with the participation of FIS elected bureaus and councils. Its aim will be to recover the confidence and the unity of FIS ranks.

FIS Council Urges Patience, Calm

LD0407094491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Sources close to the office of the head of government stressed that Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali has received four members of the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] leadership. The same sources added that the request for the audience indicated that the aim behind it is to show the will of the FIS consultative council to put the actions of their party within the respect of legality and their desire for continuing the dialogue initiated by the head of the government with the parties.

These sources further said that the head of government reiterated his will to continue dialogue with all parties without exception. However, this requires that all accept and be committed to the spirit of the text of the law without reservation, to include all actions within the legal framework, and to denounce any recourse to force.

According to the same sources, the head of government reiterated what he had conveyed to his interlocutors during the consultations he started in early June; i.e., his willingness to shortly invite all parties that accept the democratic rules of the game to a first meeting aimed at setting up a framework of consultations in preparation for the forthcoming legislative elections.

Furthermore, the FIS national consultative council yesterday evening issued a statement that said the following: At the request of the members of the consultative council, the head of government received a delegation on behalf of the FIS consultative council to examine the current situation of the country in general and the FIS in particular. The meeting was held in a frank and fruitful atmosphere, during which the two sides tackled the difficult and painful period that the country is going through. Among the issues dealt with during this meeting were questions concerning some arrests, putting and end to arrests, endeavoring to continue dialogue and settle all the issues by mutual understanding in a fully responsible spirit required by this period. FIS commitment to respect legality, and granting FIS premises to continue its normal activities.

On this basis, the members of the national consultative council addressed a frank appeal to all elements of the FIS—at all levels, including bureaus, elected councils, and families—to be patient, disciplined, and calm; to avoid improvisation; not to respond to biased voices; and to bar the way of opportunists who aim to harm the Islamic solution directly or indirectly. This is part of the FIS consultative council statement.

Democratic Generation Supports FIS Detentions

LD0207225491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The Democratic Generation Party has issued a statement following the detention of Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj in which it pointed out that some people were openly calling for the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and others were secretly hoping for that. The Democratic Generation believes that the former at least have the courage of adopting a political stance openly, while the former wish to play on two fronts. However, the former, hoping to gain authorit[illegible], have emerged as the loser. By detaining Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj, the state did not want to punish the FIS activists because they are citizens; in other words, they are our brothers and sons.

The Democratic Generation added that the detention of Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj was a wise and skillful measure which firmly established a fundamental concept in civilized societies; namely, the concept of personal responsibility and individual commitment in every social action. The Democratic Generation went on to say: This measure will make it possible to isolate those who have chosen the path of violence and terrorism in the Islamic movement, and to leave the field free for those who have chosen to continue sincerely in the democratic game. If the FIS is to be disbanded, it should be through elections, and if it is to survive and prosper, it should also be through elections, the Democratic Generation concluded.

FLN's Mehri Interviewed on Situation

JN0307125391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1120 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front, FLN, by radio correspondent Subayl Khuri, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Khuri] Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Algerian FLN Central Committee, there are reports today about new clashes in Algeria. What is the general situation now?

[Mehri] The situation in Algeria today is calm. Calm prevails over all areas. Reports on clashes are slightly old. There were limited clashes, and regrettably there were fatal casualties. The situation, however, is generally calm now. We hope that the calm situation will continue until the standing issues are resolved.

[Khuri] Abdelhamid, what are the political steps necessary to emerge from the current situation?

[Mehri] I believe that the political steps necessary are returning to general elections, that is the people's opinion, and electing constitutional institutions; foremost being the National People's Assembly—the Algerian parliament. These elections must be free. The citizen must be free to choose whoever he wants [words indistinct]. These elections must be properly organized to be successful. I believe that the solution lies in the sound application of democracy without resorting to [words indistinct].

[Khuri] Adbelhamid, does the FLN have a work plan for the next stage?

[Mehri] In our opinion the tendency to transform the single-party system into a democracy that adopts pluralism must continue. In this transformation the people's opinion must be fully adopted. Moreover, the institutions necessary for this transformation must be elected; namely, the National People's Assembly—the Algerian parliament. Presidential elections must then be held when the Assembly's state of affairs becomes stable. In our opinion, after electing the National People's Assembly, a wide national coalition government must be formed that adheres to a program of reforms for all sectors in order to get the country out of the crisis. We will present these ideas even if the FLN won the majority in the Assembly. The FLN sees that the new government after the elections must be a national coalition government.

[Khuri] Abdelhamid, are foreign quarters instigating violence in the Aglerian streets?

[Mehri] It is difficult to be absolutely certain about this. There are some indications, and some elements were caught during the arrests. In my opinion, the outside, in the general concept, or foreign quarters attempt to exploit any existing conflict by either instigating it or exploiting a certain circumstance. This is the case with any country. So far, it seems that the issues appear in the first place to be local and national. There are indications, however, that foreign quarters attempt to complicate or exploit these situations.

[Khuri] We thank Abdelhamid Mehri, Algerian FLN Central Committee secretary general.

Democracy Movement Makes Demands

LD0407213591 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The Movement for Democracy in Algeria regrets that Algeria should live through the fourth week of siege in an atmosphere of anxiety, mourning, and grief, in the face of the sacrifices of many innocent people, when we should have been celebrating Independence Day in an atmosphere of gaiety.

Therefore, the Movement for Democracy demands that all appropriate measures be taken to safeguard the rights of citizens, to protect the safety and dignity of all individuals under arrest or facing charges, to treat all individuals under arrest within the framework of political law and not to charge them within the framework of public law, to lift the state of siege as soon as possible, to restore sacked workers to their jobs, to release all individuals who have not been proven guilty of any definite crimes, to place the others under the protection of the judicial authorities, and finally to inform public opinion fully and openly about the course of events.

FIS' Madani Interviewed on Call for Jihad

PM0307145691 Paris LE FIGARO in French 2 Jul 91 p 3

[Interview with Islamic Salvation Front Chairman Abbasi Madani by AL-WATAN journalists A. Merad and Y. Ouahib on 30 June; place not given: first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] A few hours before his arrest on Sunday evening, journalists from Algerian independent daily AL-WATAN met with Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Chairman Abbasi Madani. In this last interview, the Islamic leader reiterated his threat: to declare holy war on the government.

[AL-WATAN] Is your party directly involved in the violence shaking Algeria?

[Madani] In any act of violence there is a victim and an aggressor. Who is the victim? The people! With what are they being attacked? With arms, they are victims of an armed repression. Who is using violence and arms? The existing regime! I am surprised by the press' silence. Have you visited the hospitals? The apparatus of repression is the police and the army which is directing them.

In any act of violence there are victims and it is difficult to draw distinctions. Any victim is still a victim regardless of which side he is on. They are all our children. But which of the two sides is armed?

[AL-WATAN] Some people are talking of armed civilians....

[Madani] No, I do not believe that. Until now we have stressed the need to lift the state of emergency to start dialogue. We have already had discussions with the government and we have achieved results. However, the government has not kept its promises.

[AL-WATAN] Apparently you have been given assurances. What assurances?

[Madani] First, early parliamentary and presidential elections before the end of the year.

[AL-WATAN] Do you want presidential elections before the parliamentary elections?

[Madani] We have not specified that the presidential election should be held before the parliamentary elections. We are demanding that they should take place during the same period. We think the replacement of the Hamrouche government is a gesture which is a step toward our demands. It was he who led the country up this blind alley by introducing unfair laws which distorted the elections in advance. He was then replaced by a government which was supposed to be neutral, whose only mission was to prepare the parliamentary and presidential elections in a good atmosphere. But it turns out that this government is far from being "neutral" as was originally agreed.

[AL-WATAN] Do you maintain that the Ghozali government is partisan?

[Madani] Yes, some members of that government are partisan. It is not a neutral or a transitional government in that it is making firm threats.

Government Is in the Hands of the Army

[AL-WATAN] And yet Mr. Ghozali's speech on Thursday was described as conciliatory....

[Madani] When you are really seeking dialogue, do you use illegal methods? Mr. Ghozali promised that he would reinstate the striking workers immediately after the strike ended. But so far hundreds—possibly thousands—of strikers have not yet been reinstated.

[AL-WATAN] Mr. Ghozali apparently merely promised to try to reinstate the strikers. That was all.

[Madani] When you are negotiating, you do not accept the promise to try. If that is the case, you cannot talk of serious negotiations.

[AL-WATAN] Are you saying that the present government does not have decision-making power?

[Madani] It has no power. It is no longer neutral, and, above all, it can no longer lift the state of emergency. The army also said that it would not intervene, that it was neutral. However, it intervened in political affairs.

[AL-WATAN] Do you think there are plans to crush the FIS?

[Madani] The problem (faced by the government—LE FIGARO editor's note) is not just to crush the FIS. It is trying to break the people's will. The army has taken up position opposite the people, it wants to violate and crush freedoms. The government is in the army's hands and Ghozali is merely a front.

[AL-WATAN] A state of emergency exists....

[Madani] The state of emergency is merely a pretext. It is said that the military returned to barracks during the 'Id celebrations and that people took advantage of the occasion to create disturbances. But what happened during the army's absence? Nothing. Its presence prompts people to take up the challenge. Who gave the order to eliminate the registrations in the municipalities? It was, of course, the army. We told our members not to oppose that operation. The army, however, had no hesitation in confronting the people.

[AL-WATAN] In a recent sermon, you announced that you were going to request clarifications from the military authorities. Were there discussions?

[Madani] We did say that we were prepared for dialogue, but, after what happened, dialogue no longer has any meaning. The promises have not been kept. We think that there cannot be any consultation under threat from the army. If dialogue is to start, the state of emergency must be lifted.

Jihad, If God Wills It....

[AL-WATAN] Your call for Jihad is worrying....

[Madani] If the state of emergency is not lifted, it means that there has been a military coup. And we do not accept such a regime. It means that a foreign hand has intervened. Where are the people's interests? Where are the nation's interests? In this case, where is the thinking to solve the economic problems? These people have placed us in a situation of war and revolution. Where is the wisdom in that? Where is the spirit of responsibility? So, if all this is confirmed, we will resume the Jihad which Amir Abdelkader started and which was resumed by the men of November (the resistance fighters who rose up against France—LE FIGARO editor's note). If God so wills, we will continue it.

[AL-WATAN] What form will it take?

[Madani] Time will tell. It will not be an easy matter. Do not forget that it will be the people's Jihad. Not the people against the people, because, thank God, the Algerian people are united. God said: "The Believers are brothers."

[AL-WATAN] Is the situation dangerous?

[Madani] Undoubtedly. It will continue to be dangerous until President Bendjedid responds.

[AL-WATAN] What should he do?

[Madani] He must lift the state of emergency, give up power, and allow the people to elect the leadership they want. That is the only way of overcoming the crisis.

[AL-WATAN] According to you, Algeria's problem is its president?

[Madani] Yes, he is responsible for everything that is happening now.

[AL-WATAN] Do you think that his departure would solve things?

[Madani] Of course, the people will have the final word. Any delay in this affair is a continuation of the disease which will ultimately be fatal. The people are having their wealth stolen and their time wasted. The people are suffering.

[AL-WATAN] Some people are afraid that Algeria might become another Lebanon....

[Madani] In Algeria we do not have several communities, as there are in Lebanon. We are all brothers and Muslims. There is no need for fear.

Egypt

Premier Urges Japan To Support Peace Efforts

OW0207133391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1318 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, July 2 KYODO—Egyptian Prime Minister Atif Sidqi on Tuesday urged Japan to help promote Middle East peace efforts.

Sidqi made the request during a meeting with Shin Kanemaru, former Japanese Deputy Prime Minister who is currently on a three-nation tour of the region, Japanese officials said.

Kanemaru's tour includes Turkey and Oman.

Sidqi was quoted as saying that Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's hardline attitude was inhibiting the peace process.

Kanemaru said it is natural for Japan to support Middle East peace efforts and that countries should exchange views frequently to avoid misunderstandings.

Both also agreed that Japan and Egypt should strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties.

Mubarak, Chinese Premier Hold 'Private' Talks

NC0307155291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—This evening President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Chinese State Council Premier Li Peng at the presidential office, where the two statesmen held a private meeting.

Li Peng arrived in Cairo yesterday on an official visit to Egypt at President Mubarak's invitation.

Li Peng Meets Assembly Speaker

NC0407151991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1319 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—PRC Premier Li Peng, who is currently visiting Cairo, has said that his country's position on the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem has been clear and unchanging. He noted that the PRC opposes Israeli expansion in Arab territories.

During his meeting with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, Li Peng called on Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Li Peng said that Palestinian rights must be respected and the security of all countries in the region must be guaranteed. He emphasized the need to uphold UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Chinese premier reiterated his country's support for the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference and current efforts by various international entities to solve the Middle East problem. He also discussed the importance of Egypt's role in achieving peace among all countries in the region. Li Peng called for the use of peaceful means to settle all problems. He called on Israel to abandon its intransigent positions and implement international resolutions.

The PRC premier agreed to a suggestion by Dr. Surur that China participate in building the Alexandria Library. He said that his country will take part in the international bidding to build the library.

Dr. Surur praised the close ties Egypt and the PRC enjoy and noted their similar views on various political and economic issues. Dr. Surur presented the PRC premier with a medal of the class usually presented to heads of states. He also invited the chairman of the standing committee of the PRC National People's Congress to visit Egypt.

PRC's Qian Discusses International Issues

NC0407185591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met here this evening with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, who is currently visiting Cairo as part of the delegation accompanying Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Musa described the hour-long talks as good and fruitful. He said the talks centered on regional issues, noting that the two sides agreed that the Palestinian people need to have their rights restored, particularly their right to self-determination, as a basis for any settlement in the region. Musa said this reflects the Egyptian stand which favors defending and safeguarding their political and national rights within the framework of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue. He said this stand is compatible with the Chinese stand.

Musa said he was pleased at his counterpart's invitation to visit China. He said that the invitation reflects the coordination and dialogue between the two friendly countries.

Qian Qichen said the talks dealt with the regional situation, the peace process, security arrangements, Middle East disarmament, Cambodia, and Korea. He said there is an agreement between the two countries on all issues discussed. He noted that China attaches great importance to the efforts aimed at achieving peace and security in the Middle East, and supports arms limitation as well as a comprehensive and balanced disarmament plan.

The Chinese foreign minister said that China, in its capacity as one of the Security Council's permanent member states, is concerned about the establishment of peace and stability in the Middle East. In conclusion, he said China strongly believes that Resolutions 242 and 338 must be implemented.

PRC Official Views Mubarak, Li Talks

NC0407204491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Wu Jianmin, a spokesman of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has described the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and PRC Premier Li Peng as "fruitful and useful."

At a news conference he held today, Wu Jianmin said that the talks between Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and his PRC counterpart, Li Peng, dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf, and bilateral relations. The talks, he added, were conducted in a cordial atmosphere.

Wu Jianmin said that both sides discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict in detail and that their views on the peace process and the Palestinian problem were identical.

Wu Jianmin added that both sides agreed on the need to cast away the negative effects of the Gulf war. Both countries also agreed that the United Nations should play an active role in promoting stability in the region.

The Chinese official said that both sides discussed ways of improving bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction over these ties, noting that some 35 years have passed since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries. China and Egypt agreed to boost this cooperation in the economic, political, commercial, social, and technological fields. We Jianmin said that this cooperation will not only benefit both nations, but will also promote the cause of international peace and stability.

The Chinese official said that invitations have been addressed to President Mubarak and Prime Minister Sidqi to visit the PRC and that both have accepted the invitations. The dates of the visits will be determined through diplomatic channels.

Wu said that the exchange of consultations and visits has an important and essential part in the promotion of bilateral relations.

He also said that both nations voiced their belief that the international economic situation, particularly in the Third World, is deteriorating and that it can only be improved through cooperation among the countries of the south and with the north.

The Chinese official said that both sides noted that despite the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union, much work remains to enhance international stability.

Both sides also agreed that every country has the right to chose its own social system and that this should not be an obstacle for bilateral cooperation.

Wu Jianmin said that China supports Egypt's proposal that the Middle East be declared a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry official said that both sides agreed that all countries should participate as equal partners in the international talks concerning the ban on nuclear weapons.

Wu Jianmin added that China is greatly interested in the issue of monitoring weapons of mass destruction and that such monitoring should take place in a comprehensive, effective, and balanced manner. The Chinese official noted that the stockpiling of such weapons is an outgrowth of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that Egypt and China believe in the need to settle international conflicts by peaceful means through the United Nations and other international organizations. Egypt and the PRC also agreed that any agreement for limiting the weapons of mass destruction should be applied to all countries in the region and that such weapons should be scraped.

Wu Jianmin ended his press conference by saying that China has not and will not sell any weapons to Syria. He added that this topic was not discussed in the talks.

Mubarak, Li Peng Exchange Dinner Speeches

NC0307195291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed the depth and strength of relations between Egypt and China, calling them a bastion for cooperation and solidarity among the Third World peoples and states. Mubarak made this statement in a speech he delivered tonight at a dinner he held in honor of Chinese Premier Li Peng and his delegation.

President Mubarak hailed China's supportive stands on Middle East issues, which aim to settle regional problems peacefully.

President Mubarak stressed that regional peace will only be achieved through the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and through Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and respect for the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

President Mubarak noted China's support for Egypt's initiative to declare the Middle East a region free of weapons of mass destruction because of the direct threat they pose to the security and stability of all the peoples of the region.

President Mubarak said that the success of any initiative like this depends on achieving a balance between the military capabilities of the states in the region and on these states' equally sharing legal obligations. This primarily requires that Israel join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

The Chinese premier expressed his support for the convening of an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem. This conference, he said, should be held under UN auspices with the participation

of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned.

The Chinese premier called on all parties in the region to reduce their armaments in a balanced and comprehensive way and to ban the use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. He added that the countries in the region should destroy current stockpiles of such weapons.

The Chinese premier lauded Egyptian-Chinese relations, saying they have have with stood many international developments. He commended the vitality of the Egyptian people under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak and his efforts to develop the nation's economy and culture.

He also praised President Mubarak's untiring efforts to restore solidarity and cooperation among the Arab states and to push the Middle East peace process forward.

The Chinese premier stressed the need to find a solution to the Middle East problem. He reaffirmed his country's support for the just cause of the Palestinian Arab people, who are striving to recover their usurped territory and their national rights in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and other relevant resolutions.

The Chinese premier said that the new world order should be based on the following five principles: Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression and non-intervention in internal affairs, equality, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

The Chinese premier stressed the importance of continued contacts and deliberations between Egypt and China in the current complex and changing world to benefit the two countries and world peace and stability.

Official Talks With Chinese Delegation Begin

NC0407092791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi met this morning with Chinese Premier Li Peng. The two officials discussed at their 30- minute meeting various international issues of common interest, the Middle East situation, and bilateral relations.

The Egyptian and Chinese prime ministers then chaired a session of official talks between the two countries' delegations at the cabinet premises. The following attended the session: the delegation accompanying the Chinese premier; Egyptian Deputy Prime Ministers Yusuf Wali and Butrus Ghali; the ministers of electricity, foreign affairs, industry, scientific research, economy, finance; and the minister of state for international cooperation.

The two sides are discussing international developments, the Middle East situation in light of efforts to strengthen the peace process, China's role in these efforts, and achieving security and stability in the Gulf region. They also are discussing ways to boost bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Reportage on Qadhdhafi's Visit, Talks, Meetings

Qadhdhafi Comments Viewed

NC0407045191 Cairo MENA in English 2023 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, July 3 (MENA)—The Egyptian policy is the embodiment of principles Egypt has always adhered to, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said today during a meeting with students and professors of Alexandria University.

He said Egypt and Libya had never had any differences regarding their borders.

He praised the current stability and democratic practices in Egypt.

He said the Egyptian-Sudanese relations should be based upon mutual understanding and cooperation in all fields. The two countries should allow no difference to come between them.

Al-Qadhdhafi called upon all Arabs to urge their leaders to immediately seek a comprehensive Arab unity and drop all differences and problems.

He said the future regional conflict will be focused on water resources and not oil as indicated by some parties. He urged the Arab nation to be united in confronting conspiracies it may face.

The two-hour meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Minister of Local Administration Mahmud Sharif, Egypt's Ambassador to Libya Mustafa al-Shadhili and the Libyan Coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm.

Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Resume Talks

NC0407121591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Alexandria, 4 Jul (MENA)—The two leaders, President Husni Mubarak and Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, held a round of bilateral talks at noon today. The two Arab leaders resumed their discussion of the latest developments on the Arab arena and the developments in the Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue.

Leaders Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi also discussed the means to promote and develop relations of cooperation between Egypt and Libya in various domains. President Mubarak had breakfast with Col. al- Qadhdhafi this morning.

Qadhdhafi Concludes Visit

NC0407144391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Burj al-'Arab, 4 Jul (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, left the Burj al-'Arab air base for his country this afternoon after a three-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on recent Arab developments and the future of relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Official Discusses Mubarak, Li Peng Meeting

NC0307190091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak's press secretary, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, said that today's talks between President Mubarak and Chinese Premier Li Peng dealt with current international developments and the situation in the Middle East.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that both sides discussed the existing plans and proposals for arms limitation. The PRC side showed great interest in the peace process and the disarmament issue. They also discussed bilateral relations and agreed on the need to strengthen these relations and stimulate the flow of capital and trade between their countries.

'Abd-al-Mun'im noted that Mubarak and the Chinese premier also discussed current developments in Asia.

Mubarak Explains Position on Disarmament Proposals

NC0407093791 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent messages to the leaders of the five permanent Security Council member states and the major industrialized countries which will be holding consultations soon on issues related to arms limitation and disarmament. These messages explained Egypt's stand on disarmament and on recent proposals.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced this at a news conference attended by Arab and international press, radio, and news agency correspondents. He said Egypt is willing to deal with all constructive disarmament proposals that aim to achieve a number of principles, the most important of which is the qualitative and quantitative balance [tatabuq] of the military capability of each country in the region, because the grave imbalance existing in a region seeking a just and comprehensive peace cannot continue.

Minister Decries Settlements, Commends U.S.

NC0307130691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt's position on the building of Israeli settlements is clear and unequivocal. Egypt, he said, rejects the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied terrotiries and housing the immigrants there.

In a statement to MENA today, Musa said the Egyptian position is that the building of settlements obstructs peace, is an illegal practice, and violates the spirit and letter of UN Security Council Resolution No. 242.

Musa said Egypt welcomes every stand made against the building of settlements, including the recent U.S. position. He added: We feel that the U.S. position on the settlements is sound and important, as well as beneficial to U.S. and international efforts to launch an effective peace process.

Musa on Middle East Disarmament

NC0407110791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Egypt announced today its readiness to deal with all constructive disarmament proposals.

Speaking at a news conference held this morning, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that these proposals will achieve the following:

1. A qualitative and quantitative balance [tatabuq] of the military capabilities of each country in the Middle East region because the grave imbalance existing in a region seeking a just and comprehensive peace cannot continue.

2. Enhance security with the least amount of weapons, because security must be achieved through dialogue and political arrangements instead of the force of arms.

3. Agreements to limit arms and disarmament, wherein the countries of the region have equal rights, responsibilities, and legally binding commitments in the field of disarmament. There can be only one standard for the countries of the region in this respect.

'Amr Musa added that these are the principles that formed the basis for President Mubarak's proposal of April 1990 for declaring the Middle East a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction.

The foreign minister made additional proposals that will speed up the establishment of a zone free of mass-destruction weapons and give an impetus to the public discussion of disarmament, particularly concerning the Middle East.

These proposals are:

1. Egypt calls on the major arms-exporting countries, particularly the permanent Security Council member states, Israel, Iran, and the Arab countries, to give the Security Council declarations that clearly and unconditionally reflect support for declaring the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and that they will not take any steps or measures that will conflict with or impede achievement of this objective.

2. Egypt calls on the arms-exporting countries and the signatories of the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty to intensify their efforts to ensure that all Middle East countries which have not so far joined the treaty will do so, because this is an extremely important and urgent step.

3. Egypt calls on all Middle East countries which have not done so to declare their commitment not to use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, not to produce or obtain any nuclear weapons, not to produce or obtain any nuclear material that can be used for military purposes, and to accept the system of international supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

4. Egypt calls on all countries of the region which have not done so to declare their pledge to join the nuclear weapons non- proliferation treaty and the 1972 treaty banning biological weapons no later than the date when the negotations at the Geneva disarmament conference on banning chemical weapons end.

5. Egypt calls on the Middle East countries to declare their pledge that they will deal effectively and fairly with the questions related to the delivery systems of all types of mass-destruction weapons.

6. Egypt calls on the region's countries to declare their agreement to give one of the UN mechanisms a role—to be agreed on in the future—in verifying the countries' compliance with the arms limitations and disarmament agreements, including conventional weapons, when the peace efforts in the region bear fruit and make this possible.

'Amr Musa said that Egypt intends to hold direct contacts with the major concerned world and Middle East parties, including Israel, through envoys and the traditional diplomatic channels for consultations on these various ideas and the means of implementing them.

He added that Egypt will convey these ideas to the UN secretary general and the various UN organizations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Atomic Eenergy Agency, and the Geneva disarmament conference as the first step toward involving these parties in the dialogue that aims to implement these ideas as soon as possible.

Concluding his press conferece, the Egyptian foreign minister stressed that the peace process is the principal and important pivot of diplomatic action in this region and that the issue of disarmament in the Middle East should proceed simultaneously with the peace process because it complements it.

'Amr Musa stressed the importance of Israel joining the nuclear weapons non-proliferation treaty and of not giving any of the region's countries a "special status". He added: Within the framework of peace, relations between all countries of the region will become normal, and this removes the reasons for the arms race.

He underlined the desire to achieve peace in the region, which would naturally limit the arms race and in turn would lead to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

Al-Sharif Reports on Mubarak, Qadhdhafi Meeting

NC0307181591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, held talks this morning in the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the talks dealt with relations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah and noted that these relations are longstanding and too strong to be influenced by passing events.

The minister said that the people and political leaderships of both countries are determined to consolidate cooperation between the countries.

Al-Sharif noted that during the meeting brother al-Qadhdhafi underlined the need to enhance cooperation between the two countries. Al-Qadhdhafi said that both countries have the potential to achieve economic and political integration and thus serve their mutual interests.

The information minister said that the Egyptian and Libyan delegations reviewed the approval by the Libyan People's Congresses of the 10 agreements signed by Egypt and Libya. Al-Sharif said that the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Committee will meet this Saturday in Tripoli under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of both countries to detail programs to implement these agreements.

Al-Sharif said that the two countries discussed improving their economic and commercial relations and consolidating cooperation in the agriculture and land reclamation arenas. Both sides reviewed cooperation in industry and energy.

The minister said that the delegations of both countries held a meeting in which they reviewed external issues and inter-Arab relations. He said they agreed on the need to clear the Arab atmosphere from the problems related to the Gulf crisis. Both sides also reviewed the Arab situation in general as well as Middle East developments and the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and to solve the Palestinian problem. The talks also dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Sharif said that both sides discussed the outcome of al- Qadhdhafi's visit to the Sudan and reviewed with situation in Africa, particularly the developments in the Horn of Africa and central Africa.

Al-Sharif said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi stated that relations with Egypt and its president are based on truth, facts, and the commitment to all pledges and agreements. These, al-Qadhdhafi said, are the principles guiding the relations between the two countries and their leaders.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Delivers Second Anniversary Speech

EA0207211591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1820 GMT 29 Jun 1991

['Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir speech on the second anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution in Khartoum on 29 June—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, internationalist leader and initiator of the glorious 1 September Revolution; Brother comrade in arms Idriss Deby, president of the sisterly Republic of Chad; dear Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council of the brotherly Yemen [word indistinct] in Arab culture and Islam, the unity which has given us hope for the unity of the entire Arab homeland; Brother Abdirahman Ali, the Somaliland Republic leader; our honorable guests, dear citizens, peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

In addition to all that, and after all that, we aimed at justice by promulgating the implementation of the Shari'ah, taking into consideration the conditions of our people in the south. [passage omitted] And in compliance with the Shari'ah's teachings which call for clemency. [passage omitted]

Despite this, the media has been a source of complaints and a weak point which has led to insults, accusations, and attacks. The new arrangements, however, which recently revived life in the media herald the dawn of a new information order in which the media will resume its pioneering role in consolidating national unity, encouraging production, presenting facts to the citizens, and conducting constructive dialogue.

We call on the media in its new phase to highlight the value of (?production) and to transform it into popular thinking through cultural means; to highly increase the people's awareness; and to stress the issue of comprehensive development focussing on the future which holds a lot of changes and possibilities. [passage omitted]

In honoring state workers, I direct that loans should be made available to all state workers, to be refunded in small installments. [applause]. I call on the private sector to adopt similar measures in order to reduce the burden of expenses during the glorious festivals.

Dear citizens, another package of economic reforms is now in the drafting phase. These will not only be in the form of legislation aimed at restructuring the economy and increasing production, but they will serve as a starting point for establishing a free market, price liberalization, freedom that will open all economic doors and prepare the economy for citizens in all fields. There will be freedom of ownership in regard to both consumption and production, with all citizens on the same footing. [sentence as heard]

Economic transactions will be liberalized within the boundaries of the law and the moral and ethical limits we believe in. We hope this will lead to a great expansion in the production of popular consumer goods as well as in the diversity of varieties, and the (?improvement) of the variety of goods and quality. It is also hoped that it will promote light industries. [passage omitted]

The beginning of preparations for the establishment of a free zone in the Red Sea area, will take place in the forthcoming days to make it possible for one to contribute actively to the local market and economy. [passage omitted]

We are planning to make the political structure a true expression of the people's will. We shall prepare conditions to enable Sudan to be at the forefront and not remain in the circle of reaction to developments occurring around it, in the international sphere because politics which remains in the circle of reaction and is subject to its given conditions will remain captive to the influence of others and to their interests.

Sudan, under the guidance of the National Salvation Revolution, has gone beyond this stage. It has seized the reins of initiatives and has become qualified by its determination and perseverance to influence events and make its voice heard in international, political, and ideological meetings.

Others—including the envious and the covetous—have felt this new role which Khartoum has begun to play and even praised it in an exaggerated manner. They have lied, however, about our interference in the affairs of others but they are right in sensing our own strength, which is directed towards internal construction and the preservation of the homeland's soil.

What happened in Chad under the leadership of brother and friend Idriss Deby was the free national choice of the friendly people of Chad. Sudan could do nothing but respect, admire, and support it.

What happened in Ethiopia and in Eritrea was the result of a bitter struggle against the clique of repression and dictatorship in Addis Ababa led by free heroes and sincere nationalists in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Sudan will always back the Ethiopian people's choice and the Eritrean people's choice. We recognize, with a

great sense of gratification, the brothers in Chad, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. We hope that our borders with these states [word indistinct] will not be borders of conspiracies and conflicts as in the past. They should be borders of cooperation, brotherhood, and economy for the blessing of the peoples of this region, who have been (?living in want) for a long time.

We have not interfered in the affairs of anyone but we were prophetic in declaring last year the year of Africa in anticipation and preparation for what has actually happened. We believed that detente would take place in Africa. The south has witnessed a great transformation in favor of the nationalist cause.

The Horn of Africa has witnessed an extensive transformation movement in favor of its peoples, after these peoples became aware of the conspiracies and overcame them. We appeal to them from here to be even more vigilant about these dangers especially our brothers in Somalia and Ethiopia. They should hold dialogue about matters between themselves and with their neighbors. They should strengthen relations of cooperation and integration between themselves. We once again appeal from this place, to all those who are really concerned about humanity, to provide assistance and relief supplies to the brothers in Somalia and Ethiopia, as well as the Ethiopian refugees in Sudan who the world continues to watch as a merciless spectator. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers, the regrettable events in the Gulf have produced painful results in the Arab world. [Words indistinct] and Sudan, which adopted a clear stand against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and against the destruction of Iraq at the hands of foreign forces, continued to seek unity, lessen the tension, and bring about reconciliation. Sudan stood, in this matter, on the side of the people and refused to respond to pressures [word indistinct].

It now calls for going beyond that stage and the opening of a new page of Arab relations, particularly after the unanimity achieved in the last gathering of the Arab league and the election of its new secretary general. We hope his efforts will lead to the achievement of the desired Arab unity in a world which is daily moving towards unity [passage omitted]

Dear guests of our country: We cannot allow this opportunity to pass without referring to the most important achievement of the revolution which is in line with Arab relations. There is [word indistinct] integration and moving to full merger with the great Libyan Jamahiriyah. We have placed a firm brick in the overall structure of Arab-Islamic unity, a slogan adopted by the revolution as a guide to its policies and moves. Much has been achieved through the integration which we regard as positive and in the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the entire Arab-Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

Our confidence in Libya is increased by the great and continuing support received by the National Salvation Revolution and the people of Sudan from the brothers of the great Libyan Jamahiriyah, under the leadership of the brother Muslim revolutionary and internationalist leader, Brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [lengthy applause] We hope our steps are hastened towards achieving fuller unity with God's support and guidance. [passage omitted]

We must not omit to ask the international community to consider with mercy the sufferings of the Iraqi people due to scarcity of foodstuffs and medicines, as well as the destruction, and to a blockade whose reasons are no longer valid. We particularly appeal to the league of Arab states to strive in favor of the lifting of the blockade against Iraq, since the Arabs are once more united in the league. We should all turn our attention to the Gulf war's destruction of the land and minds of people.

We appeal to the brothers in Iraq and the Iranian Republic to rise above their differences and to tackle their causes in readiness for reconstruction, fraternity, and rehabilitation. [passage omitted]

The revolution—in continuing its path of expanding in justice, mercy, and clemency and in the presence of brother presidents, blessed visitors to Sudan, and with the participation of the brother internationalist Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—has decided to demolish the Kawbar prison, which has throughout Sudan's history [applause] been a symbol of oppression and suppression of opinions. On 1 July, the day after tomorrow, the prison will witness the release of more than 1,600 inmates—most of them elderly men [applause] and youths who have completed more than half of their sentences—in order to propel the march of production and progress in our country. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Meeting To Demarcate Iraqi-Kuwaiti Border Begins

LD0307210791 London KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Geneva, 3 Jul (KUNA)—The meetings of the committee for the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border set up by the UN secretary general began here today. It has been reported that these meetings, which will be held behind closed doors and will last two weeks, will examine and discuss the committee's report on its first visit to the border area in the midpart of last month.

The committee will also review and discuss the results of its first visit to the region before starting serious discussions.

The committe includes a Kuwaiti expert named Tariq al-Razzuqi, who is also Kuwait's ambassador to France, an Iraqi expert by the name of Riyad al-Qaysi, who is Iraq's former Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, and three other experts from Indonesia, Sweden, and New Zealand.

It is worth mentioning that the committee will demarcate and draw the border between Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the agreements signed by the two countries in Baghdad on 4 October 1963.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua

LD0407090591 London KUNA in Arabic 1744 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] United Nations, 3 Jul (KUNA)—Kuwait today announced the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between it and Nicaragua. This came in a joint communique issued by the two countries and presented to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The communique says that the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries comes in the context of the wish to strengthen existing cordial relations, and to consecrate the bases of cooperation between Kuwait and Nicaragua.

Kuwait did not announce the name of the ambassador to Ecuador [as received], where the charge d'affaires of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation to the United Nations, Muhammad al-Sallal, is his country's representative.

Oman

Sultan Urges Japan's Cooperation in Mideast Peace

OW0407083791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0106 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Suhar, Oman, July 3 KYODO—Oman's Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id called for Japan's cooperation for peace in the Middle East in a meeting Wednesday with former Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru.

Meeting Kanemaru at the imperial villa in the coastal town of Suhar, 180 kilometers northwest of the capital Muscat, Qabus said he hopes Japan will show an interest in Middle East problems, Japanese officials said.

The sultan said his country is calling for Japan's cooperation through various channels.

Kanemaru, visiting Oman on the final leg of a tour that earlier took him to Turkey and Egypt, promised that Japan will make efforts for Middle East peace, which he described as a top priority, the officials said.

He also said Japan will provide technical cooperation in a dam construction project.

Kanemaru and Qabus agreed on the urgency of establishing a direct flight route between the two countries.

The former deputy prime minister invited Qabus to visit Japan by next spring.

Qabus said the six nation Gulf Cooperation Council will discuss the establishment of a united army, relations with Egypt and Syria, and strengthening ties with Western countries in a meeting slated for December.

The council consists of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Arabia

Minister on Investment Protection, Boycott

LD0207132591 Hamburg DPA in German 0927 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah (DPA/VWD)—Germany and Saudi Arabia intend to develop their economic cooperation by concluding an investment promotion agreement. This was agreed by Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann and Shaykh Muhammad Abi al-Khayl in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) today. Moellemann's intention is to attract in this way Saudi capital to eastern Germany.

The Federal economics minister, who ended his Middle East trip in Jedddah today, also expressed during his talks with the Saudi leadership the Federal Government's concern about the Arab boycott of Israel. He briefed his

counterpart, Aba al-Khayl and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on Bonn's intention to ban German firms, by force of law, from entering into obligations to boycott Israel. Many Arab countries oblige their foreign business partners not to maintain economic relations with Israel. Moellemann intends to bring about a standardized arrangement with the European Community.

According to Moellemann, the Saudi Government made the counterproposal that the EC should make a greater contribution than it has in the past to a Middle East solution. The rescinding of the boycott of Israel regulation should be linked with a greater EC engagement in a peaceful solution for the Middle East. Moellemann said in this connection the present position of Yitzhaq Shamir's government is not exactly conducive to creating a basis of trust on which U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan can be implemented. Above all, the continuing establishment of new settlements in the Israeli occupied territories has to be regarded as "a slap in the face." [passage omitted]

Hammadi Discusses Handling of UN Inspectors

JN0407080891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0711 GMT 4 Jul 91

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi by unidentified INA reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi has said that President Saddam Husayn is one of the few world leaders today to act according to principle and to show an eagerness for exercising the maximum in ethics in dealing with others, and for exhibiting integrity in words and actions.

In an interview with INA on Iraq's stance toward the latest UN mission to inspect Iraq's facilities, Dr. Hammadi said Iraq has not made any promise that it did not keep; neither has it taken a principled position without maintaining it, whether on small or big issues. The following is the text of the interview:

[INA] Could you sum up Iraq's position on the latest UN inspection mission?

[Hammadi] Iraq's position was determined at the start by its acceptance of the relevant Security Council resolution. When Iraq makes a decision, it implements it, and Iraq keeps its word. I can absolutely say that the Iraqi Government never made a promise about anything that it did not keep, or adopted a principled position without maintaining it, whether on small or big issues.

We explained to the mission that Iraq's acceptance of the Security Council resolutions is conclusive, final, and irrevocable, regardless of our sentiments or views about them, which we openly discussed with the Security Council at the time. Following our acceptance of resolutions, we are implementing them in full.

All the administrative obstacles that faced the commission were overcome, and we explained to the team that the government is ready to meet all their demands for inspection of any site in Iraq in the speed and manner appropriate to their work, and without any delay. I think the commission was convinced of this, and documented it in its report.

[INA] What do you think of President Bush's latest statements related to this topic?

[Hammadi] The statements by the U.S. President were not in harmony with the familiar language used internationally. If this is part of the new international order the United States is propagating, then this is a step backward, not forward.

The U.S. President has cast doubt on the credibility of President Saddam Husayn, but can he cite one example to prove what he is claiming?

President Saddam Husayn is one of a few leaders in our world today who acts according to principle and who is concerned to the highest degree with ethical conduct, and integrity in word and deed.

Which, I wonder, is the one who misled his people and the world? Did President Bush not say more than once that he sent his forces to the region on a defensive mission to protect Saudi Arabia? What was the truth later?

Did President Bush not say that he has no quarrel with the Iraqi people at a time when he deliberately continues to impose an economic blockade for more than ten months on the Iraqi people, whose effects on them—especially on children and old and sick people—are well known to the world?

Can there be any doubt now that the air bombardment targeted Iraq's basic infrastructure, including civilian installations, such as the infant milk factory, hospitals, and water purification plants?

Has not the U.S. President conducted a deceptive maneuver in relation to the Palestine question to enhance the image of the United States in the eyes of the Arab nation following the aggression against Iraq, after having said that the aim was to find a final solution to the problems of the region?

I wonder which party deserves credibility. Enlightened, impartial public opinion will not find it difficult to answer this question.

Barzani Views Talks With Saddam, Western Troops

NC0307174491 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 2 Jul 91 p 9

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, by CUMHURIYET correspondent Ufuk Tekin in Shaqlawah, Iraq; date not given]

[Text] Shaqlawah—[Tekin] Taking into consideration the disclosure you made that you have moved closer to an agreement with the Baghdad regime, would you say that Saddam Husayn has relinquished his monopoly on power?

[Barzani] What I said was that we agreed on the question of democracy. We believe that the government and the Ba'th Party must be viewed separately. This is very important. The concept of democracy includes elements such as free elections, freedom of the press, and a multiparty political system.

[Tekin] Have you reached an agreement with Baghdad on the map of Kurdistan?

[Barzani] Let me say that first of all, we do not plan to separate Kurdistan from Iraq. We see Kurdistan as a part of Iraq. Therefore, we will not debate the issue as if it were a border problem between two countries. The Iraqi Government feels the same way. We are trying to strengthen national unity in Iraq. As I have already

mentioned, we have found a way to solve the problem on Kurdistan, which is where the Kurds live in Iraq. If a problem still exists on the issue, we will discuss and resolve it with the other leaders in the Kurdish Front before signing an agreement with Baghdad.

[Tekin] Are you aware that the United States, Britain, France, and the Netherlands are planning to send a rapid deployment force to southeastern Turkey to prevent new tragic incidents? Have the allies consulted you on their plans?

[Barzani] Yes, they intend to deploy troops in Silopi in southeastern Turkey. They have not, however, consulted the Kurds on the issue. I heard about it from radio reports.

[Tekin] You have asked for a UN guarantee in the event you reach an agreement with the central government in Iraq. Do you believe a genuine need exists for a rapid deployment force in the area?

[Barzani] First we have to discuss this among ourselves. We have not done so yet.

[Tekin] A number of circles believe that the rapid deployment force should be based in Kurdistan in Iraq instead of Turkey because its task will be to protect the Kurds in Iraq. What do you think? Do you see the question of this force as a trump card in your talks with the Baghdad administration?

[Barzani] As you pointed out, this matter is very important. Nevertheless, I do not wish to comment on radio reports. We may want to hold talks with the countries which will provide military units for this force.

Regarding his expectations from the Turkish Government, Barzani said that he hoped that the positive steps initiated by President Turgut Ozal concerning democracy and the recognition of the rights of the Kurdish people will be maintained. Asked to assess the activities of the Workers Party of Kurdistan [PKK], Barzani asserted:

"I dislike talking about the PKK. An important problem, however, exists in that regard: Kurdish people live in Turkey and they have rights. If the Kurdish problem is resolved in Turkey through democratic and peaceful initiatives similar to those which have been launched by Ozal, many of the extreme trends, including the PKK, will no longer have any reason to exist. We believe that admitting that a Kurdish problem exists in Turkey is more important than what you write about the PKK. We also believe that this problem should be resolved peacefully and democratically within the framework of Turkey's unity and territorial integrity."

Further Details on Baghdad Talks

JN0407070491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0618 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Shaqlawah, northern Iraq, 4 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Barzani, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, has announced that a high-level delegation of the Kurdistan Front will visit Baghdad around 6 July to complete the dialogue on the national unity agreement.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH published today, he said the upcoming round of talks, in which he, Jalal Talabani, and other Kurdish party leaders will take part, will be the last. He said he expects the talks to lead to the signing of the final agreement.

Mr. Barzani said the decision to hold the dialogue was the result of in-depth study and firm conviction that this is the correct solution to the Kurdish issue.

He said dialogue would have been the ultimate decision, even if fighting had continued for many more years. At the end of the day, we must talk to resolve our issues politically after the military solution proved to be the wrong path, he added.

Barzani wondered about the objectives of the fabricated fuss that accompanied the meetings of the Kurdistan Front, in which there was agreement to support the national unity accord.

It is very strange, he said, that the Iraqis should be deprived of their right to solve their problems peacefully when the world is urging many sides in various parts of the world to resolve their conflicts by peaceful means.

Barzani condemned the confusion created around the existing dialogue between the central government and the Kurdistan Front. The objectives of this confusion, which went as far as distorting statements I made several times, are well known to us, he said.

Barzani said: After our recent return to the region from Baghdad, we held consultations with the different sides of the Kurdistan Front, in light of the talks held by brother Jalal Talabani in mid-April and the subsequent talks I held with the officials. I spent exactly 42 days in Baghdad; important things were accomplished.

He added: Our consultations and numerous meetings within the Kurdistan Front produced positive results, and I can say that more than 90 percent of the parties to the front support the agreement, and this is wonderful.

Mr. Barzani said the distortion and confusion we see today will not prevent us from proceeding along the path of dialogue and reaching the final agreement. We are determined to complete the dialogue with a view to solving our problems peacefully and correctly. No matter what the different views may be, he said, the Arab-Kurdish brotherhood will remain stronger. The sanctity of this brotherhood will always be the basis of our common action in building the future.

Details of 'Appendix' to Kurdish Accord Published

PM0307145491 London AL-'IRAQ AL-HURR in Arabic 26 Jun 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Regime's Rights Over Kurdistan Front!"]

[Text] Under the agreement reached but not yet signed, Saddam will have rights over the Kurds! Saddam's rights have been set out in the form of duties which the Kurdistan Front is obligated to implement. AL-'IRAQ AL-HURR has learned from reliable Kurdish sources that the agreement expected to be signed between the Kurdistan Front and the Saddam government includes an appendix headed "Kurdistan Front's Duties Toward the Homeland"—which here means, toward the Saddam regime. The Front is obligated to sign and implement it.

The most important clauses in the appendix include the following:

First, a Kurdish Front commitment to support the regime and its party in order to confront the artificial political formations in the region which carry out foreigners' orders!

Second, to stop transmission by the Front's radio station and to hand it over—together with its heavy, medium, and light weapons—to the ruling authorities within a period of between two weeks and two months.

Third, a commitment by the Front not to hold any contacts or to cooperate with any state inside or outside the region except with the regime's approval. Contacts with non-Iraqi parties will take place through the regime's front and its charter.

Fourth, a Kurdistan Front commitment to the regime's plans and measures to confront foreign threats, Iran, and some of the region's states, whether such measures entail launching a war, combat, or political action.

Radio Views Egyptian Role in Gulf Security

JN0207083691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Jul 91

[Unattributed talk from the "Voice of Egypt of Arabism" program]

[Text] Our kinfolk in beloved Egypt: The Egyptian regime is trying by any means to find a role for itself, irrespective of its type or nature, in the security arrangements which are being cooked up in the Gulf region now. The visit of the regime's president, Husni Mubarak, to some Gulf states happened within this framework, apart from the statements made by his Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa' in which he alleged that any program for regional security in the Gulf must give Egypt a role since it is the biggest country in the region, according to what he says.

The Egyptian regime makes feverish attempts to assert its existence in the Gulf region by adhering to what is termed the Damascus Declaration. This declaration was signed by the Gulf states with Egypt and Syria; it deals with the formation of forces to protect the regimes in the region whose core is formed by Egyptian and Syrian forces which participated in the aggression on Iraq. We say that these feverish attempts by Husni's regime are taking place after this regime realized full well that its role is finished and is not desired any longer, neither by the Gulf states nor by the Americans. Therefore, it has to get out, without gaining anything.

These are not mere opinions which we voice here, but facts that have recently been affirmed by a U.S. diplomatic source in the region when he said: The U.S. Administration no longer considers Egypt the strategic alternative it used to be. The U.S. source attempted to justify the U.S. Administration's stand by using the bad economic situation of Egypt and the fact that it poses a financial burden on Washington.

However, this is not the essence of the subject, since this U.S. confirmation was followed up with statements by numerous officials in the Gulf states, in which they said that they prefer the permanent presence of U.S. forces rather than Arab forces. They also publicly demanded amendments to the Damascus Declaration to the effect that the presence of Arab forces would be permanent but in symbolic numbers and according to needs defined by the Gulf states.

The Egyptian regime's officials comprehended very well the contents of the U.S.-Gulf message. Therefore, they have ended up in an embarrassing situation and are threatening that their regime has rights since it participated in the aggression against Iraq and stood in the ranks with the United States and its allies against a fraternal Arab country.

Proceeding from this, we now realize the secret behind the statements and visits which the ranks of this regime are making. We also understand the mediations they are attempting to mobilize to save face before the Egyptian people, to whom facts are being revealed now, facts which Husni Mubarak's regime has been trying to conceal from them.

European Position Said Subservient To U.S.

JN0207084791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that one of the starkest essential facts which emerged during the Gulf war is the reality of the double standards of the U.S. and European stands, and the subservience of the latter to the U.S. position.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, added in an article today that the European Community participated in the unjust campaign which aimed at distorting Iraq's cooperative stand with the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Wondering about the EEC's double standards, the paper said that it uses one standard to deal with the Zionist entity and another to deal with Iraq and the whole Arab nation. It said: It seems the European group believes it is the Zionist entity's right to manufacture nuclear weapons and obtain the most advanced nuclear technology, but it is not the right of the Arabs. It is moving to accept the Zionist entity in the European center for nuclear research.

The newspaper affirmed that the European stand, apart from publicly, openly, and in broad daylight practicing political hypocrisy while claiming to respect human rights and implement legitimacy, is ignorant, for example, of the hundreds of the resolutions issued by the United Nations on the Palestine question.

The newspaper concluded its article by saying that the European stand has retreated a great deal from what it was in past years. It continues to retreat and confirm its full subservience to the U.S. policies which follow the course of absolute hostility toward the Arab nation and its just and legitimate causes.

Right To Establish, Join Parties Endorsed

JN0307141491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA)—At an extraordinary session held today, the Iraqi National Assembly endorsed the right of every citizen to establish a political party, to belong to one, or to withdraw from it.

The Assembly said that each party should have a declared platform that it should seek to accomplish through peaceful and democratic means. It also agreed that a political party which is based on mixing politics with religion, atheism, sectarianism, racism, parochialism, or anti-Arab trends should not be allowed to operate.

At the session chaired by Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, the Assembly endorsed seven articles of the political parties law.

It is to be recalled that the Revolution Command Council and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command decided during a joint meeting held under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on Thursday to refer the relevant draft law to the National Assembly to debate and endorse it at an extraordinary session to be held for this purpose.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Reviews Parties Draft Law

JN0207091391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0737 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has noted that the six chapters of the draft law on political parties in Iraq cover the procedures for founding a political party, its structure, rights, duties, financial status, and other basic principles. In its review of the law today, the newspaper says: The draft law defines the party as a political organization which is made up of persons who agree on common principles and a defined program. This organization works through legitimate, sound, and democratic methods within the framework of the republican system in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

The paper adds: The draft law grants each Iraqi—male and female—the right to join parties on condition that the principles, programs, and objectives of the political party are clear in terms of adherence to and defense of Iraq's independence, territorial integrity, principles, and national unity and that it admit its pride in Iraq's soil, glorious heritage, and achievements attained by the national struggle, particularly the revolution of 17-30 July 1968.

In its review of the draft law made up of 30 articles spread over six chapters, the paper says: The draft law puts as a condition that the political party should not adopt a position that is hostile to the aspirations of the Arab nation and to the completion of its liberation. No political party will be licensed on the basis of involving religion in politics.

The paper says: The draft law stipulates that the request to found a party should be presented to the interior minister by 150 members and that the members should not be less than 25 years old. The request must include a statement containing the name of the party, its address, and agenda. The request will be referred to the Council of Ministers to make a decision on it within 90 days.

The paper adds: The licensed party will be granted a corporate status that will have the right to issue a political newspaper or magazine and to own property.

The newspaper, in its review of the draft law, a copy of which it said it had obtained, says that the draft law bans political parties from spreading their ideology within the ranks of the Armed Forces and the internal security forces with the exception of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party for its historic role in launching the 17-30 July 1968 revolution.

The paper indicates that the draft law asks the existing parties to adapt their legal status to the provisions contained in the new law within 120 days.

The paper adds that Deputy National Assembly Speaker Ghanim 'Aziz will today chair a meeting for chairmen of the Assembly's permanent committees to crystallize the remarks and recommendations they came up with and to include them in a consolidated report that will be discussed at an extraordinary session the National Assembly will hold tomorrow, Wednesday.

It is to be recalled that the Revolution Command Council and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command endorsed at a joint meeting held on Thursday

the final draft of the draft law on political parties and referred it to the National Assembly to debate it.

'New Mass Grave' Discovered Near Iran Border

JN3006194891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Al-Kut, 30 Jun (INA)—Iraqi border patrols have discovered a new mass grave in the Jallat area south of Al-Kut near the international borders with Iran.

The grave, which was discovered on 11 June, contains the bodies of scores of civilian and military martyrs who were kidnapped by the infiltrating Iranian saboteurs and their co-conspirators, who took the martyrs with them while fleeing toward the international borders with Iran.

The competent Iraqi authorities were unable to identify the martyrs, many of whom had been blindfolded before being murdered, and whose bodies were left in the open air. [passage omitted]

Arens Vows To Maintain Security in North

TA0307155491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Goni Mardor and 'Amos Har'el—live]

[Text] [Mardor] Do you perceive recent events and clashes in Lebanon as an escalation in terrorist activities, perhaps in a bid to drag the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] into action?

[Arens] Terrorist attempts to infiltrate Israel have become more frequent but, fortunately, they have failed. I suppose the reason is that the terror organizations, along with their weapons, have moved southward and are trying to justify their raison d'etre in Lebanon by staging attacks against Israel.

[Har'el] According to the information in our hand, has the Lebanese Army completed its takeover of the Sidon region?

[Arens] I believe the answer is yes for the Sidon region, but not for the area to the east of it.

[Har'el] Lebanese Army officials have voiced their intention of starting to deploy toward the Jazzin enclave. What will happen if they make good on this intention?

[Arens] They can make good on it only through our consent, but we did not and will not give our consent.

[Mardor] Will we prevent the Lebanese Army from going ahead with such a move?

[Arens] We paid a very dear price for the attainment of tranquillity and security for the civilian population in northern Israel. Since the end of the Peace for Galilee war eight years ago, not even one man, woman, or child has been hurt in northern Israel, and we will not allow this situation to change.

[Har'el] Could we say that a move southward, toward the Jazzin enclave, is Israel's red line?

[Arens] I do not like to speak in terms of red lines. We are convinced that our control over the areas we control today is vital for safeguarding the security of northern Israel.

[Mardor] Does the fact that the Lebanese Army is now deployed in areas where it had not been before hinder the IDF from operating against terrorist enclaves and forces in those same areas?

[Arens] I hope it will not be a hindrance. In any event, it will not deter us from doing whatever we think should be done to safeguard the security of northern Israel.

[Mardor] Mr. Arens, with your permission, I would like to move on to the political issue. We heard today that James Baker held a surprise meeting with Faysal al-Husayni and with Hannan 'Ashrawi. What do you think about this meeting?

[Arens] If I am not mistaken, this is not the first or even the second time Secretary Baker....

[Mardor, interrupting] But what about the timing?

[Arens] ...has met with Faysal al-Husayni and Hannan 'Ashrawi, and the timing is his choice. I believe he also met with them when he visited Israel. We are not thrilled about those meetings but, at the same time, we recognize his right to meet whomever he wants.

[Mardor] Israeli leaders are being mentioned in the same breath with Syria's leaders. There is talk about the rejectionist positions of Shamir and al-Asad, as the United States sees it. What do you think about this?

[Arens] I can only give you an answer from the Israeli point of view. From the U.S. point of view, however, it would seem to me that most Americans know there is hardly any difference between Saddam Husayn and al-Asad. The former is the leader of the Iraqi faction of the Ba'th Party, while the latter is the leader of the Syrian faction. Both have large armies and no qualms about resorting to violence or setting out to war. Israel is one of the victims of the Arab world's aggression, and I think Americans realize that, too.

[Mardor] Do you not think the United States perceives some sort of Israeli rejectionist position, which might lead to a rift, particularly in light of the argument concerning settlement?

[Arens] First of all, there is no Israeli rejectionist position. I am tired of saying time and again that Israel is the element that most wants peace in the Middle East. We fully appreciate the U.S. Administration's contribution to the peace process. Americans also know, however, that the price for the absence of peace is exacted from us, not from them. That is why we want to work toward peace, and we need no encouragement or prodding from anybody. Even if we occasionally differ with the United States over the path we should tread, I think they understand that in this region we are the ones who really want peace.

Warns Against 'Erosion' in U.S. Ties

TA0407110291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Today is 4 July, and as the United States celebrates its 215th Independence Day, in Tel Aviv Defense Minister Moshe Arens reviewed the state of relations between Israel and the United States. He was addressing a meeting of representatives of the Zionist Organization of America. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami was there and sent these excerpts:

[Begin Arens recording] There is a great deal of talk today about the peace process. It is not that the Middle

East is any more peaceful today than it was in past years, or even in past months, but it is important to understand that the first and necessary condition for there to be a chance of progress toward peace in the area is that Israel be perceived to be strong by the Arab world [applause], and anything that is done that might impair that perception—even if the intentions are the best in the world—is bound to be counterproductive and will not contribute anything towards peace in the area. The U.S.-Israeli relationship is a very important component of Israel's defense posture, and certainly about the way the Arab world perceives Israel's defense posture. Our enemies in the Arab world will welcome nothing more than to feel there is an erosion in the U.S.-Israeli relationship, and that perception, whether true or not, might be just the thing that will bring on another war, might be just the thing that could create the image in the Arab world that now they could achieve what they could not achieve before. [end recording]

Views U.S. Military Commitment

TA0407120491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens disclosed today that Israel has additional military developments that have still not been made public and are aimed at achieving a qualitative advantage over the Arab states. The defense minister said that, despite the differences of opinion between Israel and the United States on settlements in the territories, relations between the two countries are good. Arens believes that the United States will stand by its commitments to Israel, given by its Presidents, including President Bush, to supply us with equipment and armaments to provide us with qualitative superiority over our Arab neighbors.

Urges More U.S. Military Aid

TA0407173891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens today made a plea for increased U.S. aid to Israel. The defense minister addressed a meeting of the Zionist Organization of America to mark the United States' 215th Independence Day.

[Begin Arens recording] We are very grateful for the aid and assistance that we get from the United States throughout the years that permit us to build a defense posture that will be adequate to meet the dangers that are so prevalent in the region in which we live. The United States, as has been declared and as was declared by many presidents of the United States, including President Bush, has committed itself to assuring Israel a quality advantage in equipment in its Armed Forces. But in recent years, as I am sure you all appreciate, whatever weapons are being sold to us by the United States are also sold to the Arab armies. If the United States is going to meet its commitment [of] assuring Israel a quality advantage in weaponry, it must provide support for Israel's defense industries. It must increase the level of foreign military funds, FMF, that is allocated to Israel. That sum—not insignificant at all—of $1.8 billion a year has been eroded considerably in real terms by inflation over the years. It must be, it should be raised to $2.5 billion, and we are looking for U.S. participation in the efforts in Israel, possibly further acquisition by the United States' Armed Forces of systems that have been developed in Israel. [end recording]

Report Reviews Bush-Shamir Meeting, U.S. Ties

TA0407062791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Israeli political circles believe that an official visit by Prime Minister Shamir to Washington could aid Israeli-U.S. relations. During his last visit to the United States, the prime minister was asked to meet with President Bush only at the last moment, and that required great effort. Now it is hoped in Israel that a meeting could be arranged with less effort and that the meeting would prove that there is no rift in Israeli-U.S. relations.

Why the need for the meeting? Jerusalem has been receiving various assessments claiming that the U.S. Administration may lose patience with the Middle East peace process and point to Israel and Syria as responsible for the delay. Additionally, there have been the recent differences of opinion with the administration over the settlements. All this makes it urgent to prove that Israeli-U.S. relations are still good. Shamir's visit to the United States, if it is held, will be scheduled for the fall.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources explained last night that the meeting between the Palestinian leaders and Secretary of State Baker in Washington was not surprising. They described their acceptance of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian as conducive to the political process.

[A related item by Pe'erli Shahar on page three of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 4 July adds that another reason for the attempt to arrange a meeting between Shamir and Bush is "the President's long-standing avoidance of Shamir and the lack of chemistry between them." According to the report, there have apparently already been "talks to prepare for a Shamir visit to Washington since the end of last year," but "the Gulf war, and later U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's shuttle trips have halted the moves, which were low key in any case." Shahar cites "Shamir's associates" as saying that "although there is no immediate need for Shamir to depart for the United States, it would be advisable, to forestall the impression of a split between Israel and the United States.

Also, against the backdrop of the administration's severe criticism of the settlements, it would simply be understandable for Shamir to be invited to the United States. The need for this became more pressing following U.S.

President George Bush's firm announcement that the administration strongly objects to and condemns the settlements in the territories."]

Lubrani, Mordekhay View Fighting in Lebanon

TA0407114091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, and Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Northern Command, toured the town of Jazzin in southern Lebanon yesterday accompanied by General Lahd. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the two observed the fighting arena between the Lebanese Army and the terrorists on the outskirts of Sidon from their lookout in Kafr Falus. Uri Lubrani told Lebanese reporters that Israel has full faith in Gen. Lahd's operations in Jazzin and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will continue to back him.

Lubrani Discusses Golan Attack, Lebanon

TA0407181591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Karim 'Awad and Robert Dassa in the studio on 4 July—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Dassa] Mr. Lubrani, good evening. Permit us first to refer to the attack on Mount Hermon. How grave does Israel consider that attack?

[Lubrani] You saw what reactions the attack aroused here. It was a very grave attack. It constitutes a new development after many years during which the Syrian sector was quiet. It has to be taken very, very seriously.

['Awad] Mr. Lubrani, should it be seen as a change in Syrian policy?

[Lubrani] First, we have to see how the Syrians deal with the incident, because if we were to judge it by what we know today, then the Syrians have to take very firm action to deal with the event and to prevent such actions from taking place in the future.

[Dassa] Are we more certain today that the infiltration was perpetrated from Syrian territory?

[Lubrani] I believe that all the evidence points to that.

['Awad] If that is the case, can we assume that such an attack and infiltration could take place without the knowledge of Syria?

[Lubrani] If it was carried out without Syria's knowledge, then something is wrong in Syria, because they usually know what is happening in their country. If it was perpetrated with Syrian knowledge, then that is a change.

['Awad] Not only in Syria; we are witnessing an increase in the level of attacks by Hizballah in Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Those are two different things, but the level of attacks by Hizballah is growing. Recently there have been two squads; the one that reached al-Naqurah was on its way to carry out mass murder in Nahariyya. We know it crossed through Lebanese Army roadblocks deployed in the Tuffah area, and the headquarters from which it left is located in territory under Syrian control. It was Hizballah, though, that planned that action, and I have no doubt it adds a new dimension.

['Awad] I believe that, in the areas under Syrian control, there is a base or bases run by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards?

[Lubrani] Yes, they have bases. In general, Hizballah receives assistance, instruction, and inspiration from the Revolutionary Guards. There is no doubt about that.

[Dassa] In both incidents, what are the practical steps Israel can take in dealing with the gravity of the situation?

[Lubrani] You can see that Israel finds ways to deal with such events. Each situation calls for its specific response. I have no doubt that we will find a way to deal with it. When there is a new dimension, we have to find new ways of dealing with it. I believe that what is happening now with Hizballah is that it is exploiting the fact that it apparently has greater freedom of action than in the past, and we will know how to deal with that. [passage omitted]

['Awad] The Lebanese media reported this morning that you visited the Kafr Falus front, the front lines of the South Lebanese Army, west of Jazzin, facing the deployment of the Lebanese Army east of Sidon. What did you see there?

[Lubrani] We saw the Lebanese Army's initial deployment. I went to Jazzin because I often visit there as the guest of General Lahd, and I also meet with the residents from time to time to hear their problems and see to what extent we can help make their lives easier. We saw the Lebanese Army deployment, which Israel certainly does not oppose, but I found among the Jazzin residents the same concern that we all have, that the deployment itself will not bring salvation. Salvation will come to all of us if the deployment will bring, in its wake, the removal of all the threats which have hung over that area, including the terrorist presence along the Sidon-Jazzin axis and large arms caches around and in the refugee camps along the coastline. If all that changes, then the residents have reason to be very happy with what is happening.

['Awad] In other words, if today, the area facing Kafr Falus, where the terrorists were in control until now—Laban 'Ayn al-Mir, Kafr Jarrah—are free of Palestinian terrorists, and I assume that the Lebanese Army is also in control of the weapons stockpiles that the terrorists had there, is that not enough in line with the security framework for the Jazzin area that you were talking about?

[Lubrani] I do not think that this is enough. I think that the Lebanese themselves realize that this is insufficient.

We are not talking about an operation that was designed to bring tranquillity and to drive the armed Palestinian presence away for a few weeks so that they can come back later. We hope that this finally constitutes an attempt to enforce Lebanese law and order on areas that Lebanon had no control over whatsoever. The most extreme manifestation of Lebanon's lack of control was the PLO state-within-a-state established in these areas in which the PLO operated and possessed weapons without supervision.

['Awad] In other words the residents of Jazzin should not hope for any change in the situation?

[Lubrani] They can hope for and perhaps even anticipate a change. It will still take a long time, however, before we can see what will actually happen in the area on a permanent basis.

['Awad] Mr. Lubrani, 'Arafat appealed to the Arab leaders for aid two days ago, while at the same time swearing to accept Lebanon's sovereignty. How do these two positions mesh?

[Lubrani] I do not have to be the judge of the credibility of 'Arafat's statements, you can ask any of several Arab leaders and they will tell you their opinion on the subject. His hypocrisy in swearing allegiance to Lebanon's sovereignty has no basis in reality.

['Awad] Mr. Lubrani, to follow up on the previous question, let us for once define the term sovereignty in Lebanon.

[Lubrani] Sovereignty means total and unchallenged control over the 10,452 square kilometers of the country's territory, without the existence of any states within a state. That is sovereignty as I understand it, and the situation in Lebanon is far from this; however, I see that the Lebanese Government is trying to enforce its sovereignty. Let us see what happens. [passage omitted]

Elite Police Deployed in Jordan Rift Valley

TA0507104791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jul 91 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] An elite Border Police unit has joined the forces carrying out routine security missions in the Jordan Rift Valley settlements in the last few days. This followed orders from Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, and top police officials. The policemen are being lodged at Hamra, and they will deal with routine security operations, together with the reserve soldiers deployed in the region.

Senior military sources have reported that the decision to transfer the Border Police unit to the Jordan Rift Valley came in the wake of the meeting Minister Arens and Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, held with the residents of the Jordan Rift Valley, in which the locals were promised that a special unit would be permanently stationed in the area. [passage omitted]

Moda'i Claims Settlements as 'National Needs'

TA0307154191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i opposes stopping settlement. The settlements are a national necessity and we cannot give up national needs, Moda'i said. He said that if President Bush links settlements with aid to Israel, we will be forced to look for more demanding solutions for immigrant absorption. On the Construction and Housing Ministry's excessive spending beyond its budget, the finance minister said it is the result of a lack of sufficient controls and what is required now is greater involvement by the Treasury. He was speaking with our correspondent Esti Schreck.

Soviet Immigration Reportedly Drops 'Dramatically'

TA0507075391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Jul 91 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[Text] The numbers of Soviet newcomers has dropped dramatically in recent days, as expected, because of the new Soviet "passport law."

Yesterday, 110 Soviet immigrants arrived, and none are schedule to land at Ben-Gurion Airport today. One plane, with 110 immigrants, is tentatively scheduled for tomorrow night.

These numbers are in stark contrast to last weekend, when some 6,000 Soviet immigrants arrived over a 72-hour period. The numbers of Soviet Jews rushing to get into the country without having to carry a Soviet passport peaked on Monday, when some 2,500 newcomers arrived.

The new law, aimed at easing emigration, requires that all emigrants carry a Soviet passport. As a result, 80,000 to 100,000 Jews in the Soviet Union with valid exit visas must now apply for passports. No one knows exactly how long it will take to process applications, and estimates of how long the lull in immigration will last range from two weeks to three months.

As a result of the decline, Mikha'el Kleiner, head of the Knesset's immigration and absorption committee, said yesterday the NIS [new Israeli shekels] 17,000 basket of services given all Soviet newcomers arriving before the end of the year should be increased. He said that since the Treasury's budget for immigrant absorption was based on projections of 300,000 immigrants this year—projections that no longer look feasible—more money should be available for those now arriving.

Report on 'Arafat's 'Prohibitive Preconditions'

TA0507065991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Talk in the studio between anchorman Uri Paz and Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor—live]

[Text] [Paz] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat last night listed seven preconditions for negotiations with Israel in his replies to the questions Israeli peace activist Abie Nathan presented to him. Among the conditions are demands for a halt to settlement in the territories and the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The six-page document arrived this morning through the help of the Solan Communications Company. Our Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor has read it. What does it contain?

[Bekhor] The six-page document arrived, as you said, from the PLO headquarters in Tunis this morning. It is addressed to media elements in Israel. This is the first publication of the document.

The document is written on Yasir 'Arafat's official letterhead, which clearly lists his titles, such as president of the state of Palestine and others. At the same time, and this is important, the document is not signed by 'Arafat, has no title, and makes no mention of 'Arafat as the respondent to Abie Nathan's questions.

The main part of the document is a list of seven preconditions or demands Yasir 'Arafat wants the Israeli Government to meet before negotiations begin. This is certainly a blow to Nathan, who, I believe, had hoped to come out with some kind of push for negotiations to open.

The preconditions, in brief, are as follows: territories for peace as the basis for talks; the Israeli Government's recognition of our Palestinian people's right, as the document puts it, to self- determination and independence; the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees; the reopening of the universities; an end to the policy of oppression and deportations; the abrogation of the law against meeting with PLO members; and a halt to the establishment of all settlements and acts of settlement in the territories. This is what 'Arafat is demanding in return for the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council in November 1988 in its 19th session in Algiers.

Abie Nathan asks, though not explicitly: Is the PLO or 'Arafat ready to hold direct talks with Israel? 'Arafat says: Yes, but Shamir has foiled this. It is worth noting that there is nothing new in 'Arafat's willingness to hold direct talks.

Another interesting question is: Will the PLO guarantee the absence of Palestinian violence during the peace talks between the Israeli Government and the PLO? The reply: When negotiations between the Israeli Government and the PLO representatives begin, we will do all we can to prevent Palestinian elements—he does not say PLO—from taking violent action. We expect Israel to do the same.

Another question: Before the talks start, will you be willing to revoke the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that claim that Israel's existence is null and void? 'Arafat replies: Before the final peace agreement is signed, both Israel and the PLO will declare their willingness to cancel and/or change chapters in their respective official documents that might hurt or endanger Israel's or the Palestinian state's security. This phraseology is evasive. It does not directly answer the question, nor does it refer to the famous Chapter 19 of the Palestinian Covenant.

We believe that this document is disappointing, at least from Abie Nathan's point of view, as he hoped to achieve some breakthrough. There is no push here to allow a breakthrough, and it clearly contains a series of prohibitive preconditions.

Foreign Ministry Director General Resigns

TA0407131291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav has resigned, apparently because he has been neutralized and hindered at every step. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Foreign Ministry employees claim that Merhav was recently prevented from dealing with important issues. Foreign Minister David Levi did not permit him to leave for Europe and from there for Kenya and Ethiopia as part of his job. Beginning next week, Assistant Director General Yosef Hadas will be acting director general.

Intifadah in Jerusalem Reportedly Declining

TA0207104491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Text] The Jerusalem Police commander has said that the intifadah in the capital is declining. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Commander Hayim Albaldes told the Knesset Internal Affairs Committee that there has been a drop of over 50 percent in stone-throwing incidents, a 75-percent decline in the planting of explosives, and a 25-percent drop in the torching of vehicles. Disturbances and demonstrations by masked men is almost zero, Commander Albaldes said, but there is an increase in firebomb incidents, and there has been no change in the rate of stabbings.

The commander stressed that most of the stone throwers are children under the age of nine, who are released immediately when brought before a judge. Commander Albaldes pointed out that he still is not recommending that schoolchildren conduct organized group tours of the Muslim Quarter in the Old City, a position for which he was strongly criticized by several Knesset members.

JORDAN TIMES Correction to King Interview

JN0207061691

[Editorial Report] Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 2 July publishes the following corrections to King Husayn's interview with YOMIURI SHIMBUN as published in the 1 July JORDAN TIMES, which was in turn published on page 29 of the 2 July edition of the Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, under the headline "King Husayn on Peace Prospects, U.S. Ties":

"Due to transcribing errors, and editorial oversight, the text of His Majesty King Husayn's interview with the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, which appeared in the JORDAN TIMES yesterday, contained a number of mistakes that are corrected below for the record."

—In describing the plight of returnees from Kuwait, the King said: "Nonetheless, we have received back something like 250,000 people, some of whom have been working for the Gulf governments three generations or so. Many of them did not leave through Jordan." In the text the last sentence read was misquoted as "a very huge leap through Jordan."

—In defining the U.N. role in the proposed peace conference, the King said: "We would like the moral weight of the world with us. We would like, certainly, if it is not under U.N. auspices, in terms of the U.N. being involved, (to have the process) in any event end up with the guarantees of the Security Council which are implicit in 242 and 338." The words "in any event" were misprinted in the text to read "many events".

—In answering a question on Israeli attitudes on the peace process, the King was quoted as saying he had been "in Petra, and made some statements." In fact, he had said: "I have been in 'touch', and made some statements." In the same answer, the King said: "We need the goodwill of all 'friends'" and not as mentioned in the interview "the goodwill of all 'Arabs'".

—In referring to President Bush's proposal for banning mass destruction weapons in the region, the King said he hoped "that there will be no need in the future for such weapons to be here... ." The word 'such' was missing in the Yomiuri transcript.

—In recalling the history of the Gulf crisis, the King said: "I was not involved. I did not know. I knew there was a problem when I heard about it at the Arab summit in Baghdad in front of all Arab leaders. But beyond that people kept it away from us. I went just a couple of days before the failure of the conference in Jeddah to Baghdad and then to Kuwait and I sensed that the atmosphere was not a comfortable one there. And I came back and I warned something has to be done to ensure that the meeting in Jeddah succeed. I did not expect this war, and I was against it entirely."

The YOMIURI transcript of the interview, a copy of which the newspaper made available to the JORDAN TIMES on Sunday, took this paragraph out of context, and it contained a number of transcriptional errors.

—In commenting on his appointment of Mr. Tahir al-Masri as prime minister, the King had this to say:"... I believe that he is relatively a young prime minister who has had a lot of experience." In the JORDAN TIMES text the word "had" erroneously appeared as "ahead".

The JORDAN TIMES regrets the errors and apologises for any inconvenience they may have caused His Majesty and its readers.

Muslim Brotherhood on Not Joining Government

JN3006081691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 91 pp 20, 15

[Text] Amman—Concerning the Islamic movement declining to join Tahir al-Masri's government, House of Representatives Member Engineer Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, official spokesman for the Islamic movement—Muslim Brotherhood—said: We declined to join Tahir al-Masri's government because we believe that the formation of this government comes in response to the political pressure pushing Jordan to proceed toward entering into negotiations with the Jews in plans to settle the Palestine issue contrary to the Islamic movement's demands rejecting the recognition of the hostile entity on any inch of the land of Palestine. We explained earlier that the Muslim Brotherhood ministers in the former government committed themselves by a unanimous decision. In accordance with that decision, they must withdraw from the government if it launches any practical step for participating in any negotiations in which the Jews join, under any cover.

He added: We hope that this government will prove that it will refuse to enter into such negotiations. We will be pleased if our belief and that of many others is proven wrong.

We would like to emphasize that we did not request a particular portfolio or a certain number of portfolios. We refused to join the government in principle under these conditions and vis-a-vis the current trends. The portfolio of education was never the subject of discussion, and this issue had no effect on our unanimous decision.

'Large-Scale Offensive' Against PLO Reported

NC0307154791 Paris AFP in English 1524 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 3 (AFP)—The Lebanese Army launched a large-scale offensive Wednesday against remaining PLO positions at the edge of Palestinian refugee camps near here, where thousands of fighters have retreated.

Lebanese troops firing heavy artillery launched a three-pronged attack toward the hills that oversee the Palestinian camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah, in the suburbs of this southern port city.

The Army on Tuesday had seized positions east of Sidon and reached the edges of the camps. Defense Minister Michael al-Murr has said that the Army had no plans to enter the camps.

Army in 'Complete Control' of Hills

NC0307164291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1620 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] A military source has said that this evening the Lebanese Army has complete control of the hills surrounding the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camps. The Army captured al-Ashrafiyah village, the whole town of al-Miyah wa Miyah, and Jabal al-Halib.

The Army seized these positions after launching a large-scale three-pronged attack under heavy artillery cover this afternoon.

Israeli Patrol Attacked; Israelis Shell Villages

NC0307175191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] An Israeli patrol was attacked in the security zone today. This was the third such attack in less than 48 hours. A security source said that a powerful explosive device went off this afternoon as a joint patrol of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army was passing near Bayt Lif in the central sector.

Half an hour later, Israeli artillery bombarded the villages of Kafra and Yatar, both located close to Bayt Lif but outside the security zone. According to security sources, 35 shells, some of them incendiary, hit the two villages and damaged many homes.

[Paris AFP in English at 1725 on 3 July in a similar report adds: "The pro-Iranian Hizballah Shiite militia Wednesday claimed a double attack on the Israeli Army and its auxiliary South Lebanese Army (SLA) in Israeli's self-proclaimed "security zone," saying that the blasts killed several people." The reports concludes: "The blast caused five deaths among the SLA militiamen," a communique said. "When Israeli reinforcements arrived, another explosive went off, killing and wounding a large number of enemy soldiers."]

Defense Ministry Statement on Sidon Attack

NC0407051991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry's Information Department on 3 July]

[Text] As of 1945, 400 Palestinians launched an attack on the building in which officers' families and some military personnel reside and on the officers' club, both of which are near the camps in Sidon. This compelled the Army to use all available means and the appropriate weapons to repulse this attack.

Army Captures 'Large Number' of Gunmen

NC0407074291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Calm has returned to the city of Sidon. Some tension remains, however, because the Palestinians insist on pursuing a policy of defiance and rejecting the process to establish the state's authority and to implement Resolution 425.

Army units managed to resolve the situation and to control the town of al-Miyah wa Miyah following fierce battles with Palestinian gunmen and an attack that 400 Palestinian gunmen launched on the houses of officers and their families. The attackers suffered heavy losses of lives and equipment.

Sidon continues to come under intermittent shelling from the Palestinian positions.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry's guidance directorate has announced that the Army forces continue to deploy, to consolidate their positions, and to deal with some pockets of resistance. The Army forces have also captured a large number of gunmen.

In another development, Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has requested that 211 fighters, mostly Palestinians, be held for trial. A military source has indicated that some of the detainees hold four different Arab passports.

Officials Contact Palestinian Leaders

NC0407075791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin called Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd yesterday evening and consulted with him on preparing for meetings with the Palestinian side to discuss the civic and social rights of the resident Palestinians.

It has been reported that Minister al-Amin will visit Sidon today to start his contacts.

Meanwhile, a telephone conversation has taken place between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Algerian Foreign

Minister Lakhdar Brahimi, during which the Lebanese-Palestinian developments were discussed.

Palestinians Reportedly Agree To Pull Back

NC0407073491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] In a statement to the Voice of the People radio, Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has announced that the Palestinian leadership conveyed to the Lebanese side at dawn today its approval of the withdrawal of the Palestinians to inside the camps.

Meanwhile, intermittent skirmishes are taking place around the Palestinian camps. Last night's battles and heavy shelling left three dead and 15 wounded, according to a partial count based on hospital sources. This brings the number of casualties since the outbreak of clashes on Tuesday to 42 dead, including 25 Palestinian fighters, and 157 wounded.

'Resistance Fighters' Attack Israeli Patrol 3 Jul

NC0407114491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Resistance fighters detonated two explosive charges as a group of five Israeli infantrymen was passing in the town of Bayt Lif yesterday afternoon.

Palestinian Salvation Front Official Meets Karami

NC0407123691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami met with a delegation from the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] led by Abu-Fadi Hammad. After the meeting Hammad said:

[Begin recording] What happened in east Sidon is a shortcoming that was perpetrated by some people and which, however, does not really represent our people's policies and interests. We are urging everyone to have a sense of responsibility and not to hold our entire Palestinian people responsible for this erroneous and unacceptable act. Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin has left for the south to implement what has been agreed upon. We have learned that the leaders in the south have agreed to prevent the failure of the Lebanese Army's deployment in its positions and to restore normal life gradually.

We value very highly the Council of Ministers' decision yesterday to abolish the decree issued during former President Amin al-Jumayyil's rule, which banned the Palestinians from pursuing certain professions. This is a sign that the Palestinian people will enjoy protection and will live a dignified life. This will reassure the Palestinians and isolate all the reckless individuals who want to harm our Palestinian people and their fraternal relationship with the Lebanese people.

We hope that in the next few days the current meetings will lead to the reorganization of Palestinian-Lebanese relations, in particular regarding social and civil issues.

We have seen that his excellency the prime minister has a high sense of responsibility and a willingness to deal with these issues. We also requested that some measures, particularly the regrettable arrests, be halted. His excellency promised us all will be well. [end recording]

Army Cuts Off PLO's Supply Routes

NC0407134791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1310 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] REUTER has reported that the Lebanese Army has seized buildings overlooking the al-Miyah wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps after clashes with Palestinain factions last night. The agency added that the Army gained control of all the ridges overlooking the two camps and managed to cut off the PLO's supply routes.

UNIFIL Dismantles Katyushas Aimed at Israel

NC0407164891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] A source from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] has disclosed that UNIFIL forces have dismantled four Katyushas rockets set up to fire on Israel.

The source also said that the UNIFIL command has protested the Israeli shelling of Yatar yesterday to Israeli authorities. A UNIFIL unit is stationed in Yatar.

AFP Reports Government, PLO Agreement on Army

NC0407163791 Paris AFP in English 1621 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 4 (AFP)—The Lebanese Government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) late Thursday reached an agreement to disarm Palestinians in the south of the country and peacefully deploy the Army in the region.

Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin, who participated in discussions between the government and the PLO to end raging battles sparked by the Army's attempt to extend its authority throughout Lebanon after 16 years of civil war, announced the accord.

At least 45 people have been killed and another 150 wounded in the clashes in the past three days, PLO representative Zayd Wahbah said.

Radio Reports Government, PLO Agreement

NC0407170091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1624 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The Ministerial Liaison Committee made up of Ministers 'Abdallah al-Amin and Shawqi Fakhuri met with the Palestinian delegation in Sidon today. The meeting ended at 1830.

In a statement after the meeting, Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin said the two sides decided to carry out the Lebanese Army's deployment as designated and in a peaceful manner. Minister al-Amin stressed that this means all differences and disputes will end, that amity will be restored to the relations between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and that the unity of their common fate will be reasserted. The minister said that complete deployment will take place in accordance with the designated plan.

Minister al-Amin said: The issue of Palestinian weapons inside camps will be dealt with as it was dealt with in other areas, that is, heavy- and medium-caliber weapons will be handed over and collected in specified locations. He pointed out that the meeting with the Palestinian delegation dealt with the Palestinians' standard of living and social issues.

The PLO's representative in Lebanon, Zayd Wahbah, concurred with the agreement on the deployment and added: We have absolutely no problems with our brothers in the Lebanese Army. Now, everyone will be united against the Israeli enemy. Wahbah said that an agreement was reached to collect Palestinian weapons and transport them outside the area.

Responding to a question about whether the weapons will be collected inside the camps, Wahbah said that the weapons can be collected any place under the Lebanese Army's supervision. He affirmed that all the security problems will end and that the agreement will be implemented in an honorable and satisfactory manner for the Lebanese Army, the Palestinian people, and the people of Sidon. Wahbah said: The camps are secure and we have been assured of the national and pan-Arab role played by the Lebanese Army. He said there are guarantees from our friends in the state and in Sidon. He pointed out that the Palestinian-Lebanese dialogue has begun and will only stop when an agreement has been reached concerning all the outstanding issues. He noted that these issues will be solved with amity and on the basis of a joint pan-Arab stand.

Palestinians Term Pact 'Acceptance of Status Quo'

NC0407181191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Palestinian sources have told our radio that there is no ongoing Palestinian-Lebanese political dialogue for the moment, but that the Liaison Committee has promised to arrange such a dialogue later, following the resolution of all immediate security and social matters.

The Palestinian sources described the agreement with the Lebanese Government as an acceptance of the status quo. The sources told our radio that the Palestinian leadership in Sidon will submit a memorandum to the Liaison Committee listing economic, social, and security concerns. The memorandum will be handed to the Liaison Committee in the next few hours. Further meetings between the Palestinian delegation and the Liaison Committee will follow.

While the meeting between the Liaison Committee and Palestinian leaders at the house of Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd was still under way, intermittent clashes were taking place and shelling was reported in the Tallat Sirub, Jabal al-Halim, Darb al-Sim, and Tallat Maria camps.

Our correspondent said that the clashes abated significantly after the agreement was announced.

The International Committee of the Red Cross made several attempts to evacuate the injured from 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah camps. These attempts were unsuccessful, however, because of the continued shelling.

Karami Briefed on PLO Agreement, Comments

NC0407193891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has been briefed by the Ministerial Liaison Committee members, Ministers 'Abdallah al-Amin and Shawqi Fakhuri, on the outcome of their talks with the Palestinians in Sidon.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami said: I was briefed on the atmosphere that prevailed during the meeting and, thank God, an agreement was reached on all issues. I hope that what happened is temporary. We will spare no effort to restore confidence and cohesion between the two peoples.

Karami also said: We reiterate that the sons of the Palestinian people are dear brothers and guests in Lebanon and we consider what happened in the south to be a temporary dispute between brothers. We hope that what happened will be a lesson to everyone and that the Army will move ahead so that the state will regain its authority over all of Lebanon.

Minister Fakhuri said that all issues have been resolved, the deployment will be completed peacefully, and the weapons will be collected in special locations as was the case with the other Lebanese armed organizations. Fakhuri said: Our task has been decidedly successful and we spared the south, Sidon, and the camps more fighting and bloodshed. He stressed that the deployment will be carried out according to the Lebanese Army command decision, and that the Palestinians are ready to withdraw to the camps when asked to do so without any conditions.

Defense Minister on Agreement With Palestinians

NC0507070291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has told AL-LIWA' that the Ministerial Liaison Committee has reached agreement with Nasirite Popular Organization leader Engineer Mustafa Sa'd and the Palestinian groups on withdrawing all Palestinian gunmen from their positions and turning over these positions to the Lebanese Army before 0600 today. He said that the Palestinian leaders have undertaken to withdraw all gunmen to the camps immediately and to hand over their weapons to the legitimate authority at some point in the future.

Minister al-Murr revealed that the cabinet has decided to treat all Palestinians residing in Lebanon in accordance with Lebanese law and to grant them work permits as ordinary citizens.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Sidon Events

NC0507073691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] In a statement on the recent events in the Sidon area, Hizballah has expressed concern over the continued state of attrition that inflicts the gravest harm on the interests of our kinfolk in the south, disrupts stability, and gives the enemy an excellent pretext for continuing the occupation.

The statement added: It would not have been hard to resolve the problem in Sidon had sincere efforts been made to allay Palestinian suspicions and fears, something that could have been done without any modification of the Army's deployment plan.

The statement continued: In view of the disquieting situation, we urge everyone to avoid political miscalculations and illusions and not to arouse sensitivities, because our region is experiencing fateful circumstances and the danger of Zionist expansionism threatens us all. The statement noted: This situation should propel us to coordinate our efforts to confront this danger, not to fall into the trap laid by the U.S. policy, which only serves the interests and plans of the enemy. We urge those in a position of responsibility not to use language that arouses sensitivities and revives memories of the morality that prevailed during the civil war in Lebanon, because there are no foreigners in Lebanon but the enemy and his agents.

The Hizballah statement concluded with a call for an immediate end to the fighting and prompt action to find a formula for understanding that will strengthen peace, win support for the efforts to liberate the south, and reassure and protect the rights of the Palestinian people as it serves their cause, which is our sacred cause as well.

Karami Meets With Palestinian Delegations

NC0507104291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today met with a delegation from Fatah-The Revolutionary Council headed by Walid Khalid, who said after the meeting: We sensed the positive and responsible approach that characterizes his excellency the prime minister and his great concern for our Palestinian people and the fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. We conveyed the appreciation of our movement's leadership for the cabinet statement regarding the cancellation of the decree issued by [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil. We also conveyed our appreciation for the assurances that have been given about our people's civil and social rights. We hope that political dialogue on Palestinian-Lebanese relations will develop in the next stage.

Prime Minister Karami is currently meeting with a PLO delegation led by 'Ali Faysal to discuss recent developments.

Al-Murr on Agreement, Palestinian Rights

NC0507110391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Interview with Shawqi Fakhuri, minister of state for land, sea, and air transport affairs and member of the Ministerial Liaison Committee, by unidentified reporters following Fakhuri's meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 5 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Fakhuri] [passage omitted] I was informed today that the agreement with the Palestinians has been implemented in full and that the Lebanese Army is now deploying in all areas around the camp without encountering any problems, reservations, or conditions from anyone. The Ministerial Liaison Committee, which I make up together with Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin, will leave for the south shortly to follow up on the implementation of the agreement and to contact influential figures in Sidon to discuss all new developments. Another important thing is that we will also work to protect the social and civil rights of the Palestinian brothers. We will certainly pursue this matter and study it within a framework of Lebanese law and sovereignty. We have asked the Palestinian brothers to give us a detailed memorandum on everything they regard as legitimate civil and social right. We will study this memorandum and determine what can be implemented in line with the law. Naturally, we will always maintain a framework of good relations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, it is known that, during its contacts with the Palestinians [words indistinct], the committee reached positive results that achieved quick success for the Army. Why was this and have you given specific guarantees to [words indistinct]?

[Fakhuri] We have not given any specific guarantees because the Lebanese state has absolutely no intention of storming the camps or mistreating the Palestinians. We consider all circumstances and feelings and honor our obligations toward the Palestinian issue. Any civic activity is allowed, but military activity and military organizations are not allowed and must be confined to the camps under the supervision of the Lebanese Army. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fakhuri] No, the Army will not enter the camps. This must be clear. We have agreed on this in a manner [words indistinct] so as to allay any fears and [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Al-Murr Announces Completion of Deployment

NC0507095391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Statement by Defense Minister Michel al-Murr; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The deployment operation in Sidon and the villages to the east has been completed after gunmen responded positively to the legitimate authority's decision and the widespread popular wish and peacefully withdrew from their positions. The Lebanese Army has taken over all positions formerly under the gunmen's control. Thus, the area of its deployment as of this morning extends to the officers housing area, the military club, and Jabal al-Halib up to the government hospital in the east; the emergency [al-tawari'] camp and the railway crossing in the north; the rail line in the west; and Darb al-Sim in the direction of the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp and the al-Ta'mir housing area.

As we express appreciation for the efforts undertaken by leading Lebanese personalities in Sidon to facilitate the ministerial liaison committee's task and as we praise the Palestinian leaders' cooperation with the committee, we wish to reassure the Palestinians that the Army will assume the task of defending their security and will treat everyone with all due consideration.

PLO Representative Claims Army Violated Accord

NC0507114591 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, July 5 (AFP)—The Lebanese Government has given PLO guerrillas until Saturday to empty refugee camps of heavy and medium weapons, a spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation said Friday as the Army completed its deployment of the Sidon region.

He said that the clearing out of the weapons is to take place under supervision of the Army, which on Friday peacefully took over the last remaining PLO position near this port city.

"These arms will remain the property of the PLO, which is free to transfer them outside of Lebanon, or to other Lebanese areas far from the borders with the Zionist enemy (Israel)," said PLO representative Zayd Wahbah.

He also accused the Lebanese authorities of violating the accord concluded Thursday evening between the government and the PLO by pursuing searches in areas where the Army deployed and failing to free arrested Palestinians.

After more than three days of fighting, Palestinian guerrillas withdrew Friday from their last holdout east of Sidon, Lebanon's third-largest city.

The PLO fighters withdrew from their position on Sirub hill to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camps in the suburbs east of Sidon.

There was calm throughout the Sidon region, which had experienced deadly fighting since Tuesday between the Lebanese Army and the PLO guerrillas who had refused to give up their last stronghold in Lebanon.

The Army's deployment was part of the central government's operation to extend its control over the entire country in accordance with a 1989 Arab-backed peace plan.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Kills 18 Troops During Operation

BK0407132691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin, during an operation on Gardeyz front, are reported to have killed 18 Kabul regime troops and destroyed four military vehicles. They also captured two tanks in operative condition and a truckload of foodstuffs. Five mujahedin were martyred. The reports add that the Kabul regime forces fired Scud missiles at four different points in the liberated area of Khowst. Twenty-two persons, including women and children, were killed and 11 houses were destroyed in the attack.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Criticizes UN Envoy

LD0407190191 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 4, IRNA—The prime minister of Peshawar-based Afghan Mujahidin groups in a statement sent from inside Afghanistan Wednesday night termed the personal envoy of U.N. Secretary-General for Afghanistan Benon Sevan as a "devoted servant of Zionists and international colonialism."

Sharply reacting to a statement by Sevan, Abdul-Rasul Sayyaf also accused him of perpetuating mischief and ulterior motives against Afghanistan.

Sevan in his recent statement had warned that "no obstacle will be allowed to remain in the way of a political solution for Afghanistan."

Sayyaf one of the Afghan mujahidin leaders who vehemently rejected a five-point plan proposed by U.N. secretary-general on May 26 for a political solution in Afghanistan, said: "Maybe Sevan doesn't know us but we know him well."

Reiterating his previous position on the U.N. plan he noted that the plan not only would fail in solving the Afghan issue but would create more difficulties for Afghanistan.

Terming the plan a deception against Islamic Jihad in Afghanistan the leader of the Ittihad-Islami party of Afghanistan urged other Mujahidin leaders to consolidate their unity and neutralise the new plot.

India

Muslim 'Militants' Release Israeli Tourist

BK0307144791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1419 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Srinagar, July 3 (AFP)—Moslem militants Wednesday released a 25-year-old Israeli tourist they abducted six days ago after he had survived a gunbattle with a rival secessionist group in the Indian state of Kashmir.

Ya'ir Yitzhaki was set free in the presence of some journalists in Srinagar city at 6.50. p.m. (1220 GMT), the witnesses said.

The abductors, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), called a group of journalists to an unspecified place in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, and released Mr. Yitzhaki.

The JKLF had earlier said it would hand over the Israeli to the United Nations, prompting the world body to send a special envoy there earlier this week.

It was not immediately known if Mr. Yitzhaki was handed over to the envoy.

The tourist was among eight Israelis who fought back against a rival group of militants to foil an apparent street execution in the city during a botched kidnap attempt. One of the tourists died and three were wounded in the battle.

Two militants died in the fight when the tourists, including Mr. Yitzhaki, snatched rifles from their captors and fired back.

Delhi Confirms Release

BK0307160091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] A message just received from Srinagar says the militants have released the Israeli tourist kidnapped by them last week. Negotiations for the release of the executive director of the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC], Mr. K. Doraiswamy, are continuing. A group of eminent persons has appealed to the Kashmiri militants for immediate release of the IOC official, Mr. Doraiswamy and the other nationals. The signatories to the appeal, among others, include Mr. P.N. Haksar, Mr. Badruddin Tayebji, Mr. B.G. Verghese, and Professor Saifuddin Soze.

Spokesman Denies U.S. Linkage to IMF Loan

BK0407161491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi has described as baseless the report that the United States is toying with the idea of linking India signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] with the sanction of an emergency IMF loan to India. Replying to questions by newsmen in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the U.S. attitude continues to be helpful on the issue.

China Protests Dalai Lama's Visit To USSR

BK0507083491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] New Delhi, July 5 (AFP)—Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, will visit the Soviet Union this month to promote Buddhism in the communist country, a spokesman said Friday.

The nobel laureate will fly to Moscow on Wednesday and return here around July 30 after touring the autonomous republics of Buryat and Kalmik, where he will tour Buddhist monasteries lecturing on Buddhism.

A spokesman for the Dalai Lama's office here said the trip had no political overtones, and dismissed Chinese protests over the visit as "nothing surprising."

It will be the Dalai Lama's fourth visit to the Soviet Union since 1979, and he will be accompanied by six officials of his government-in-exile which is based in India but not recognised by any country.

Spokesman Tashi Wangdi said the Dalai Lama, who has been living in India since fleeing Tibet in March 1959 following a failed anti-Chinese uprising, had been invited by the Central Buddhist Board of USSR.

There were no plans to meet Soviet leaders during the trip, he said. "It is purely a religious and cultural visit."

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman in Beijing Thursday protested the proposed trip, accusing the Dalai Lama of being engaged in activities aimed at "splitting the motherland."

The spokesman said any meeting between the Dalai Lama and Soviet officials would be "unacceptable" to Beijing.

Mr. Wangdi described the Chinese reaction as not surprising.

"It is quite normal. Every time he (the Dalai Lama) moves out of India, they protest," he said. "There is nothing surprising."

"It only shows that they have something to hide. ... It means they don't want the world to know (about Tibet and Tibetans)," he added.

Rao on Desire To Better Ties With Pakistan

BK0407151091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, says India will endeavor to improve its relations with Pakistan by forging better ties between peoples and the two governments while keeping aside matters where reconciliation is not immediately possible. In an interview to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said India has always extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan. Unfortunately, it has not been grasped as it should be.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said there would be no change in India's stand on matters on which we cannot relent or come to any compromise.

Rao, Pawar Comment Further

BK0407164491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, says India will continue its efforts to improve relations with Pakistan and will keep aside issues which cannot be reconciled immediately. In an interview to PTI [Press Trust of India], Mr. Rao said India has always extended the hand of friendship to Pakistan, but unfortunately Islamabad does not grasp it. He hoped that outstanding issues between the two countries could be resolved peacefully in the future.

Voicing a similar opinion, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said Pakistan's role in instigating the militants in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir is a hindrance to improving bilateral relations. He was talking to newsmen, who accompanied him on his first visit to the forward positions in the Siachen region to review the country's defense preparedness there.

Later, briefing newsmen in New Delhi, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, told his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, that Pakistan's continued assistance to the militants in India despite talks of normalizing relations is not in tune with the spirit of the Simla accord. In their meeting in Male yesterday, the two foreign secretaries agreed to hold the fifth round of secretary-level talks. They also discussed measures to control drug trafficking and modalities for a meeting on the land and maritime boundaries of the two countries.

Pakistan's 'Inconsistent' Efforts Condemned

BK0407105091 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] India has reiterated its stand that Pakistan's continued assistance to subversive elements in Kashmir and Punjab and its efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue are inconsistent with its public posture of improving relations with India. The Indian stand was made clear by the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, in his informal meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, at Male last evening. Reacting to Pakistan's attempts to raise the Kashmir issue at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting, Mr. Dubey said the Pakistani action is against the SAARC charter, which clearly says that bilateral issues will not be raised at such forums. He further said that Pakistan's attempt to raise the Kashmir issue was contradictory to its own call for noninterference in bilateral matters.

SAARC sources, however, said that none of the member countries, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal,

Bhutan, and the Maldives, had responded to the Pakistani attempts to raise bilateral matters in the meeting.

Ministry Issues Press Release on Border Firing

BK0307161791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistani troops once again resorted to heavy artillery and mortar fire on Indian positions in the Keran subsector of Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir yesterday. Indian troops retaliated and are keeping a constant vigil. A Defense Ministry press release in New Delhi says the unprovoked firing by the Pakistani troops is a violation of the understanding between the directors general of military operations of the two countries. Meanwhile, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said though India wants to maintain good relations, the country's defense forces are prepared to meet any eventualities. Addressing officers and jawans [soldiers] in the forward position in the Siachen glacier yesterday, Mr. Pawar said scarce resources are being devoted from development needs to defense purposes due to Pakistan's continued efforts to create trouble in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Surface-to-Surface Missile Test Fired 4 Jul

BK0407145191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] India has successfully test launched Prithvi, the fully indigenously designed and constructed surface-to-surface missile, for the fourth time today. Disclosing this to newsmen in Madras, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said the missile was launched at 1352 [0822 GMT] from the Sriharikota range. The missile with a range of 150 to 250 km was first test launched successfully on the 25 February 1988. The missile, developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization, can also be launched from a mobile launching truck. Prithvi is designed to perform a tactical battlefield support role and will function as a high-accuracy system to destroy various types of enemy military targets.

Government To Deport LTTE's Residing in India

BK0407125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] The center has decided to identify and deport LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants, who are living among Sri Lankans, now residing in India. This was disclosed by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, to newsmen in Cochin today. Mr. Jacob said the center is taking stringent measures against the militants and infiltrators.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Sermon Condemns Western Culture

LD0507103491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Text] In today's Friday prayers sermon, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, stressing the necessity of the rejection of the decadent Western culture, enumerated the characteristics of the rich Islamic culture and described it as a source of felicity and glory. The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran described the present situation of the world as the outcome of the culture prevalent in Western societies. He pointed Out: America, as the cradle of the present world civilization, is the source of all evil.

Referring to the great achievements of the Islamic revolution and the need for their preservation, the ad interim Friday imam of Tehran said: We should remove defects and shortcomings. Due to the blessings of the Islamic revolution, our path is smooth and straight.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili also referred to the events at Ghadir Khom [near Mecca, where Shiites believe Mohammad appointed Imam 'Ali as his successor]; describing it as a major event and a turning point in the history of Islam, he said: The spirit, the heart, and the axis of our Islamic principles lie in that event. The ad interim Friday imam of Tehran described genuine Islamic principles to be indebeted to the events at Ghadir Khom and the formation of the religious seminary by Imam Sadeq, peace be upon him, and described their propagation as the duty of the government and every member of the Muslim nation.

Velayati Returns From Paris, Comments on Talks

NC0507070191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jul 91

[Statement by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Tehran airport following his return from France on 4 July—recorded]

[Text] During our visit to Paris, we held three rounds of talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and also met with His Excellency President Mitterrand to deliver a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr. Mitterrand accepted Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's invitation to visit our country, and we agreed that he will pay an official visit to Iran in early fall, most probably the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October].

In our talks with Mr. Dumas, we discussed various bilateral, regional, and international issues, including the question of financial differences. Mr. Va'ezi, our deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, and Mr. Francois Scheer, a French Foreign Ministry official, have been working to resolve these differences for the

last two years, before which the matter had been discussed by various Iranian officials and their French counterparts. There were many financial differences between us and France, including some over the implementation of agreements reached before the revolution.

A large number of these differences were settled during this visit and a 16-point memorandum of understanding was drafted. We have reached agreement on 15 of the points, and experts will continue to discuss the one point over which we still have some differences. This new memorandum of understanding, which will be signed by the two foreign ministers, incorporates the agreements contained in the earlier memorandum of understanding signed by our two countries.

Relations between the two countries will be better organized, as the new memorandum of understanding envisages annual meetings between the two foreign ministers and the establishment of an Iranian-French joint commission before the end of the year. Of course, it had been hoped that all questions would be settled during this visit, but the remaining area of disagreement is not a major one and we did make progress here, although our stay in France was quite brief. This matter will be resolved, perhaps before Mr. Mitterrand visits Tehran, God willing. This is also the wish of the French president, who told me during our meeting that he wants the two foreign ministers to make every effort to ensure that no differences remain when he visits Tehran.

Velayati, Va'ezi Confer With French Leaders

WA0307153591

For reportage on the visit by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi to France, including reports on their talks with President Francois Mitterrand, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and Quai d'Orsay General Secretary Francois Scheer, please see the France section of the 3 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Aqazadeh Terms Paris Forum 'Very Successful'

LD0407200991 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Oil Minister Aqazadeh, who traveled to France to participate in the two-day conference of petroleum producers and consumers, returned to Tehran this afternoon. After his arrival, during an interview with our correspondent, he referred to the session as very successful and said: The Paris conference was held in a very good climate. Important issues such as the environment, technology, and oil consumption were discussed.

The oil minister added: It was decided to hold another conference next year at the ministerial level and to invite more countries—including Norway and the UAE—to bring closer the views of the producers and consumers of petroleum.

Concerning the issue of pricing in the Paris conference, Mr. Aqazadeh said: The price of petroleum was not formally on the agenda of the conference. However, this issue was put forward informally by a few producing countries. Since the price of oil is of utmost importance to the oil-producing countries, it is essential that this issue is exploited in future conferences.

Paper Sees U.S. Hand in Lebanon Events

LD0407134191 Tehran IRNA in English 0719 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 4 July, IRNA—A morning English-language daily Thursday editorialized on disarming of Muslim groups in Lebanon and noted that the move "is nothing but to justify Washington's policies to ensure Tel Aviv's security."

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' wrote, "What Lebanon's Syrian-backed government is trying to do by ordering troops to take over the PLO's main stronghold in the south and those of the Hizbollah, is in fact the accomplishment of a task the Zionist regime set out to achieve when it invaded Lebanon in 1982."

It referred to repeated diplomatic shuttles of U.S. officials to Israel, stockpile of U.S. weapons in Israel for war with Iraq, and recent U.S. call for an immediate disarming of Lebanese Muslims as "a sinister plot against Muslim umma in the Middle East."

The U.S., the paper added, after defeating Iraq in the Persian Gulf war and becoming the world's indisputable power, "intends to gradually impose its sovereignty throughout the world, including the rich Middle East."

Therefore, the daily concluded, "all the ways lead to Israel. In Washington's ultimate scheme, the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem] would be able to control the Middle East, meet America's demands, and guarantee its interests."

Daily Says U.S. Seeks To Sell Arms to Mideast

NC0407125291 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Jun 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Working Menace of Arms Race"]

[Text] There is a growing nervousness that the world's most volatile area, namely the Middle East, may be again heading back into arms race following the Persian Gulf war. This nervousness holds particularly true in regard to conventional weapons.

Already Saudi Arabia is negotiating with Britain on the future of a huge arms-for-oil deal. The United Arab Emirates [UAE] is awaiting U.S. Congress approval to buy some $700m [million] worth of helicopters and anti-tank missiles from the U.S. Israel, Egypt and Bahrain are each in line to buy advanced U.S. fighters and helicopters. There are also rumors that the Iraqi

army was not damaged as seriously as previously thought and that Baghdad has begun to rearm itself clandestinely.

Therefore, if things continue the way they are now, the possibility of another war in the region will not be far-fetched. Only next time it will be so much more destructive than the previous two—i.e., the Iraqi-imposed war and the U.S.-led Persian Gulf war against Iraq.

If the two bygone Persian Gulf wars have proved anything, it is that arms as such do not bring security and in the absence of conscious efforts and awareness they might even contribute to insecurity and hightening the possibility of war. There is a surprising tendency to ignore potentially priceless past experiences and repeat some of the same mistakes that brought disasters. Such countries as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain,...which are already negotiating with Western countries on hefty arms deals beyond their legitimate defense needs must have learned from the experience of Kuwait and Iraq, but they seem to have not.

There are, however, two sides to the arms race in the Middle East; internal—or that which has to do with region itself—and external. Arab countries are fearful of Israeli arms supremacy and that may explain their excessive preoccupation with amassing arms. This is also intended to act as a way of creating a balance between Israel's nuclear and Arabs' conventional capabilities. Israel is said to possess up to one hundred nuclear warheads.

Another internal factor which has greatly contributed to the race is the tendency by some heads of regional states to collect arms above and beyond their legitimate needs in order to dictate policy—domestic or foreign—to the others. Saddam belonged to this category. He used the Arab Persian Gulf states' fears of the Islamic Revolution to build an arsenal that went beyond his needs only to use against Kuwait at a later time.

As far as the external factor is concerned, it should be pointed out that some countries of the region have put their hopes on parties outside the region to get in on the Middle East arms race and work out some kind of a solution. This is unrealistic and simplistic, because some of the countries that are expected to get in on the arms and work a moratorium are themselves producing countries that look at the Middle East, specially the Persian Gulf, as a market for the sales and tests of their own arms and as a means of balancing their trade deficits.

As far as the Bush administration in this connection is concerned, it seeks to sell arms to the Middle East even as it urges other countries to stop their sales to the region. U.S. arms policy is at best contradictory and confusing. It consists on arming its own allies to the exclusion of others, thus advertently or otherwise proliferating the race. In general any external attempt to deal with the race should deal with its root cause which is the Arab-Israeli conflict or the ingrained distrust between them. And everything considered, the U.S. does not seem to be ready to take any drastic measure in this regard.

So the solution must come from within. Just during the last two decades the countries of the region have spent some $200b [billion] on arms purchases. A workable plan on slowing or stopping the race requires the sincere and the all out cooperation of all the countries of the region or their leaders so as to divert this huge money for the benefit of their own peoples. It requires a conscious choosing by the leaders of the countries concerned to use this region's exhaustible resources for the best long term interests of their own peoples. Therefore, as an initial step they should begin making the necessary preparations for the convening of an international conference to work the difficult road to settling this menace among themselves.

Khamane'i on Tax Evasion by Merchants

LD0407164391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamane'i to group of bazaar merchants, members of the Islamic Association of Tehran Guilds and Bazaaris, and association of services and production affairs on 4 July; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I welcome you the brothers from the bazaar and all of you who somehow serve by trading in the Islamic bazaar and Islamic society. [passage omitted] On the basis of the thoughts of those ideologies which are alien to Islam, that is, Marxist thoughts and other similar ideologies, the bazaar merchants, the guild members, and traders are not needed. Those ideologies believe this stratum should not exist at all. This has nothing to do with religion and the beliefs of the bazaaris, and the followers of Marxism do not distinguish the good and the bad among the bazaaris. Basically, some of the athiest ideologies which were popular at the times of the struggles did not accept this stratum at all. Well, no one should be influenced by those words and slogans. In Islamic Iran, as far as we understood, observed, and felt, the guilds were at the service of Islam and the revolution, and remained obedient to the illustrious imam [Khomeyni]. They were present in every arena of the revolution too. This is a point.

The next point is that the guild members themselves should safeguard this Islamic and revolutionary state. They should not allow such a situation to develop among the guild members and the guild units, which would first separate them from the revolutionary stances, and would then raise the criticism of some tongues which may not be so benevolent.

The guilds must respect Islamic laws and must be law abiding. I would like to explain a point to you, dear brother in the Islamic Association of Guilds—and we believe in this Islamic association, and your responsible

officials are the revolutionary faces with good records trusted by the imam and us—I would like to tell you the point that during the war years and in general during the years after the revolution, some members of the guilds, the traders, and merchants behaved very badly. They did something which provided ample fuel and gave a pretext for anyone who wished to criticize the traders and bazaaris. They abused many things. Some of them trampled on the law and amassed immense wealth.

At a time when the people, the salary earning strata, the workers, the civil servants, and the militarymen, were putting up with the economic pressure brought about by the war and the economic sanctions, the bazaaris did not share the people's suffering under pressure; rather some of them even increased this pressure. This does not befit the Islamic and revolutionary face of the Muslim guilds of the Islamic Republic. It is not a policy of the Islamic Republic system and the serving government of the Islamic Republic to introduce severely harsh control measures to create difficulties for the majority of guild members. This, however, should not encourage some toward abuse. I would like to tell you, and no doubt you know it already as I do, that many people abused the system.

I remember at a meeting with a group of Islamic Association Members of Tehran Bazaar, who came to see me several years ago when I was the president, I told them that they should stop individuals from abusing the system. You should expose the abuser. You should inform the government officers and state authorities of the special tricks employed to evade taxes, to escape the law, to violate, and to cheat. This task must be done and I am saying it again now.

Of course, the country's economic situation usually does not remain the same. The country's economic problems depend on many factors, many of which are beyond our control. That is, the situation of global inflation, international exchanges rates, the world monetary situation, and many other similar factors can influence the economy of a state. The economy of an independent state such as ours, which wishes to live independently, usually goes through some fluctuations. You should not allow individuals to take advantage of these fluctuations and these ups and downs to fill their own pockets. As soon as a tax is levied from a certain guild, they immediately pass the cost of tax payment to the consumer. this is not fair, it is not right, and it is not compatible with Islamic justice. You must watch these things.

The Islamic Associations should act vigilantly. I must tell you that tax payment is an obligatory and religious matter. In an Islamic society, if the government were to deem it necessary it must collect taxes.

There are those who have huge earnings and who evade this legal and religious obligatory duty, which is in the interest of Islam and the country, and to the benefit of the poorer classes. You should really find a solution for this and not allow these things to happen. [passage omitted]

You should not be working for personal gain alone. It is not right that someone should think that because they are traders and merchants, profit alone is the ultimate objective. No! We know some individuals, some devoted and faithful individuals who, for the sake of the revolution, used up and kissed goodbye to their shop and trade and business, transactions, interests, and profits. They entered the arena of the revolution; they devoted their working life, night and day, to the revolution. Of course, we do not expect everyone to make such sacrifices, but we do expect everyone to be fair. This is another point. I consider the responsibility for generally watching over the workings of the guilds and tradesmen and preventing the various infringements of abusers in the guilds to lie with the Islamic societies, especially with the heads of the Islamic societies and the respected, trusted individuals of the bazaar, in whom the imam and we had and have confidence, and whom we have known for many years. It is the latter who should not allow infringements and who should assist the government in preventing abusers who, as soon as they see a relaxation in control, quickly think about taking advantage and filling up their own pockets. It is as if this is all there is to Islamic life—filling one's own pocket! This is the second point which I wanted you, dear brothers of the Islamic Societies of the Guilds and the faithful bazaaris, and brothers in the production guilds, and generally all of you who are involved with charity work—to take note of. This is a duty.

The next point is that you should not allow the merchant and guild community in the country to be divided by hostility and discord. You should prevent these. The bazaar merchants were always a united entity and you should remain united, for the sake of God.

What scares the enemy today is the unity of the Iranian nation. These global bloodsuckers fear your unity more than anything else. If they cannot confront a certain nation, it is not because they dont want this confrontation; no, they are afraid of the unity, courage, and faith of that nation. Otherwise, global colonialism and arrogance show that they have no qualms about committing crimes. It was on a day like today, several years ago, when the American battleship in the Persian Gulf hit and downed, burned and drowned, an airliner carrying some 300 passengers, killing all of them. When protests and a hue-and-cry were raised and the world came to recognize the justness of the Iranian nation regarding this event, they apologized by saying: we're sorry, we made a mistake. Really! You made a mistake? You hit a passenger airliner, in contravention of the norms that are worthy of respect and are supposed to be observed by these same global powers of today, who are not all that concerned about humanitarian and ethical values. No one is permitted to attack a passenger airliner; yet, you down a passenger airliner carrying 300 passengers and then say: we made a mistake! You made a damn mistake

did you! Then why did you not put on trial the commander of that battleship if he made a mistake? Why did you give him a medal? Why did you continue your enmities toward Iran in various manners, in your words, to the people of Iran? What kind of a mistake was that? You never make any mistakes when it comes to finding your sinister goals. You never make any mistakes when it comes to committing your dirty deeds against independent nations—you go straight to the point which is the ugliest and the worst and find it. That is what global arrogance is like today. That is what America is like. It has no qualms about committing crimes. If America does not take action somewhere, it is because it considers that it is not in its interest to do so; it is weary of certain things, however, and among these, the unity of a nation is the most important.

Preserve this unity like a valuable gem.

Today our nation is united, thank God, as in every post-revolution stage. Everyone is behind the regime's officials and in the service of the goals of the revolution. Certain people try to create a rift among the people. Some try to make the people pessimistic about the authorities and the regime. They should know that it is treason. They should know that I will not tolerate such behavior continuing. Those who try to use any means or resort to any false propaganda or malpractice to create a rift among the people, or between the people and the country's officials, those servants whose whole life is devoted to the service of the Islamic system, or this valuable president [Rafsanjani] we have today, should know that it is a crime, it is treason, it is no small deed.

You should be the same among yourselves. Do not involve the guilds in gang warfare and political intrigue. You are all in the service of the policies of the Islamic Republic. All the guilds should be involved in politics, but do not let rifts resulting from political gang formings occur among the guilds. You should be a united society in the service of Islamic goals and the Islamic system. You, the Islamic associations, should be particularly aware and watchful about what I said in my second point. That is a duty.

Your honorable officials are acceptable figures. I have known some of these gentlemen for many years, on the battlefields, in prisons, and under torture and the pressures which we have all experienced. They are well thought of and accepted by the imam. These accepted figures must guide the people, and the Islamic associations should take on the supervision of the activities of the guilds throughout the country. You should be in the service of the system to prevent violations within the guilds. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Reviews Domestic Economic Situation

NC0407095591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God.

The change in the country's foreign exchange policy and efforts to attain a monetary balance within the framework of achieving an economic equilibrium is among the salient developments envisaged by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government regarding the country's economic policy.

In the era prior to the revolution, the foreign exchange rates were based on the backing of production and the maximum sale of crude, and had been specified in a manner that on the one hand it boosted the trend toward consumerism in society, and on the other reduced the sector of production in society and increased the services sector, by projecting production activities as profitless and uneconomic.

In 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] and 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] the price of oil rose by $2.5 to $14 per barrel and brought in an extraordinary income for the country. This culminated in the investment by Iran in the countries of the world and in insolvent foreign companies. Following this, with the amendment of the fifth developmental program, an extensive plan was formulated which was not practical, even in view of the massive income, and naturally by the end of the year 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] an imbalance in foreign exchange rates, its fluctuation in the free market, and its difference with the official rates began. In 1356 [21 March 1977-20 March 1978] the country faced a foreign exchange deficit.

In the course of the first decade of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well, the country's economy was under various kinds of pressures, such as oscillations in foreign exchange rates, changes and deep upheavals in the managerial and proprietary structure of the production units, the imposed war, and its structure of economic dependence. These factors placed the gross national product in an extremely unsuitable position.

In 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] we witnessed a negative growth of approximately 9 percent in the GNP. The rate of the rise in inflation increased by more than 30 percent and more than 50 percent of the government's income encountered a budget deficit and the liquidity was totally disproportionate with the level of the country's production.

With the end of the imposed war, the beginning of the new government's operations, and the implementation of the Five-Year Plan for the country's social, cultural, and economic expansion, and with the people's efforts and endeavors, positive steps have been taken in the past few years for the country's economic growth. The first signs of the improvement in the country's economic situation can be perceived.

At present, the GNP has a growth rate of 10.1 percent, and this is in circumstances when in the past 16 years, the country has never had a two-digit economic growth rate. The trend toward a rise in prices and inflation in

1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] has registered a 9-percent decrease, as compared to the corresponding period last year, and the budget deficit of 2.6 billion rials of 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] fell last year to 600 billion rials. With this declining trend, the budget deficit will be reduced to zero by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

All these results affirm the correctness of the government's fiscal and foreign exchange policies in the past two years. On principle, the policy of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past few years includes the utilization of instruments for rectifying the foreign exchange rates and methods of payment for preventing the increase in liquidity and for minimizing the budget deficit.

In this regard, with the amendment of the multiple rates to three rates, that is the floating rates, the competitive and the official rates, the government has been able to make an effort to reach a single foreign exchange rate. The choice of a single rate for the foreign exchange system, which is an indicator of the actual value of the monetary economy in every country and relies on the capacity and ability for production in a society, is the most fundamental measure to keep in mind when formulating the country's foreign exchange policy, as regards various production activities.

This is because the actual value of foreign exchange lies between the two rates, the official one and the free market rate. The policy of multiple foreign exchange rates, which mainly relies on the government rate for foreign exchange, cannot result in investment for production because this policy, which focuses on the stabilization and strengthening of the rial as opposed to all other currencies, has resulted in an increase in imports and does not foster the promotion of exports.

The present foreign exchange rate, which is far lower than its actual levels, had been fixed in 1336 [21 March 1957-20 March 1958] and has not been changed since. On principle, since 1971 the gold standard system, which until then had been the basis for fixing international foreign exchange rates, has been revoked completely.

The choice of an appropriate foreign exchange policy and a single-rate system can help eliminate many of the present economic difficulties. These problems, which have a direct link with foreign trade, comprise the main economic problems of the country. The main point is that a change in the foreign exchange policy for the attainment of the objectives of the Five-Year Plan to boost the foreign exchange earnings by bolstering non-oil exports is vital and necessary. The stepping up of domestic products and the expansion of exports and the raising of industry and productive sector efficiency depends on fixing a realistic rate for foreign exchange.

The government's foreign exchange policy over the course of the past two years has moved gradually toward a more realistic rate, and the sporadic announcement of the foreign exchange rates creates problems. Therefore, the government has designated the attainment of a realistic foreign exchange rate as one of its priorities among the objectives of its programs.

An assessment of the foreign exchange policy and a move toward a single-rate system regarding this demands a special discussion which will be presented, with hope in God, in the future.

Higher Limit For Hermes Credits to Iran

AU0207083891 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 1 Jul 91 p 15

["pp." report: "Higher Limit for Hermes Credits to Iran"]

[Text] Tehran, 30 June—Economic relations between Iran and Germany are to be considerably developed in the next few years. The Federal Government resolved to develop its guarantee policy toward the country more generously and has therefore rescinded the annual Hermes insurance cover limit of 500 million German marks [DM]. This was promised to President Rafsanjani by Economics Minister Juergen Moellemann at the third meeting of the German-Iranian economic commission in Tehran, which was meeting for the first time in 15 years. In the talks of the 40 economic representatives who also participated in the trip, it was stated that the will to closer cooperation became evident. German enterprises can soon expect orders valued at a two-digit billion amount, the economics minister stated. According to Moellemann's intention, German industry's chances for exports to Middle East countries in general are to be perceptibly improved. Moellemann will subsequently travel to Kuwait and Jiddah in Saudi Arabia. Moellemann said that the Federal Government now wants to pursue a basically open Hermes policy toward Iran. "The limit of DM500 million is no longer justified and has prevented many projects in the recent past," stated the minister, who said that the atmosphere of the talks was "better than expected." German-Iranian relations, however, are not free of conflict. Moellemann told Iranian Economics Minister Nurbakhsh that the continuation of the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant by the Siemens Deutsche Kraftwerk Union [KWU] is definitely not approved by the Federal Government. In a joint working group, the country's future energy policy and opportunities for German participation are to be discussed. Despite the DM5 billion that have been spent so far on this construction, Moellemann does not expect Iranian compensation claims.

Moellemann was less restrictive in the question of the Ghraswin [name as published] pesticide plant, for which the Lurgi metal company subsidiary had developed plans until the prohibition by the Federal Government. "Possible solutions are to be found" here, Moellemann stated deliberately vaguely. Iran's readiness not to produce or own chemical weapons is helpful here. Moreover, the country offered to accept any international control.

From the circle of the economic representatives participating in the trip—among them five from the new laender—it is heard that numerous projects will more or less be concluded soon. After the DM2.6-billion order to the Siemens KWU for the construction of a natural gas power plant, Kloeckner reported on the order to build a cellulose and paper plant for DM790 billion. In cooperation with Krupp, Kloeckner will build a polyvinyl chloride plant, valued at DM270 million. However, Iranian interest in German help in removing the war damage is far-reaching. From fish trawlers to car plants and telecommunications almost everything is wanted. For example, German companies are negotiating on the construction of a telecommunications satellite for more than DM1 billion.

Pakistan

Kasmir Premier Sets New Dates for Election

BK0307163191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1615 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 3 (AFP)—The Prime Minister of Pakistan-administered Kashmir said Wednesday that new elections for the region would be held Sept. 27, and defended as perfectly legal his decision to declare last weekend's polls null and void.

Mumtaz Rathore had claimed massive vote-rigging and electoral fraud when he quashed the election result, which was unfavourable to him, Tuesday.

But while Mr. Rathore said his decision was legal, he appeared to be risking a constitutional crisis as the federal government here was quick to reject the move and his plan to hold new elections for the 40-seat assembly.

The Azad (free) Kashmir premier "should desist from illegal activities as this could have serious repurcussions for him," warned the Federal Minister in Charge of Kashmir Affairs, Sardar Mehtab.

"Severe action could be taken."

Mr. Mehtab also said that repolling would be held Saturday in four districts where voting irregularities were reported.

Mr. Rathore is a member of Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which was drubbed in the Saturday election by the All Jammu Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC), which is backed by the ruling party in Islamabad.

Mr. Rathore said Islamabad was powerless to make him reverse his decision, however, and argued that the federal government can interfere only if he violates a constitutional article barring Kashmir from changing the currency, raising an army, appointing a foreign minister or violating a U.N. resolution.

"By rejecting the election results I have not violated the article, so the Pakistan Government cannot interfere in our affairs," Mr. Rathore said.

He also appointed a new chief election commissioner to oversee the election process, having dissolved Tuesday the election commission which had announced victory by the state president and leader of the AJKMC, Sardar Qayyum.

Mr. Rathore has refused to transfer power to Mr. Qayyum, saying paramilitary troops assigned to maintain security had stopped PPP voters from entering polling stations.

He has also sent Kashmir's police chief and chief secretary back to Islamabad, in a move described as "unconstitutional" by the federal government.

Mr. Rathore said he did not come under the "jurisdiction" of Mr. Mehtab, who was a "stranger in my constitution.

"I cannot keep the officials who are touts of the Pakistan Government," he said.

In Muzaffarabad, the region's capital, several PPP candidates also alleged massive electoral fraud.

"There was no example in the past of such large scale rigging," said Ghulam Rasool, a former minister and advisor in Mr. Rathore's government, who said that in 23 of Muzaffarabad's 78 polling stations, authorities "forced the electorate to vote for the muslim conference candidate" and prevented many others from voting.

But Tariq Rasool, the general secretary of the muslim student federation, the student wing of Mr. Qayyum's party, said that if there was any fraud, "the responsability solely lies on Prime Minister Rathore himself."

Two different moslem militant factions were still holding an Indian oil executive, K. Doraiswamy whom they have threatened to execute, and two Swedish engineers, Johan Jansson and Ole Loman, abducted March 31 from a Kashmir highway.

Government and militant sources said negotiations for the 58-year-old Indian executive's release had reached a "deadlock", but did not elaborate other than to say talks were still on.

"We are talking with the captors with all seriousness and sincerity," the official spokesman added.

A Kashmiri separatist organisation, Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen (Moslem Brotherhood) has threatened to kill Mr. Doraiswamy, an executive director of the state-owned Indian Oil Corp., unless the government agrees to swap him for three of their jailed associates.

The group has extended an execution deadline three times.

Yet another militant faction, the Moslem Jaanbaz Force, is holding the two Swedish engineers in Kashmir and this

week released photographs showing that one of the men, Mr. Loman, was suffering from a leg injury.

The group says Mr. Loman was injured in a clash with Indian security forces, but the government says it is possible he was shot in an escape attempt.

Swiss Envoy Offers To Host Afghan Peace Talks

BK0307155991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 3 (AFP)—Switzerland would host any meeting that could advance efforts to settle Afghanistan's 13-year war, Swiss Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Klaus Jacobi said here Wednesday.

Mr. Jacobi also told a press conference that President Najibollah could send "certain representatives" to peace negotiations, due to the difficulty of getting the Kabul leader and his adversaries to sit down at the same table.

Mr. Najibollah, 44, who came to power during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, would not have to join the talks, "at least not at first," the Swiss official said, stressing however that "he could not be left out of any settlement."

Mr. Jacobi arrived Tuesday in the Pakistani capital after spending three days in Kabul. On Thursday, he is to travel to the northwest Pakistan city of Peshawar, where Afghanistan's sunni moslem guerrilla factions are based.

The Swiss official said he has met in the past with King Zaher Shah, the former Afghan king living in exile in Italy.

If the warring sides want to talk, Switzerland is willing to host a peace conference or any other type of meeting that could help a settlement, he said.

Switzerland hosted the talks that led to an April 1988 pact between Moscow, Washington, Kabul and Islamabad allowing for the red army's withdrawal from Afghanistan the following February.

Mr. Jacobi insisted that he was not trying to mediate between Afghan leaders, but he did not rule out informing Moscow and Washington—major backers of the rival sides—of the results of his contacts.

"We simply want to encourage the concerned parties to enter into an inter-Afghan dialogue" in line with the wishes of the United Nations, with which Bern is in "close contact," he said.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in May proposed a "political agenda" for Afghanistan including a ceasefire, an end to arms deliveries by the United States and the Soviet Union, and elections aimed at forming a "broad-based" government in Kabul.

Mr. Jacobi hailed Pakistan, "a major player" in the conflict, for welcoming the U.N. proposals, but he suggested that the rebel groups which have rejected the proposals should "stay outside this process" and avoid becoming "an obstacle.

Envoy Discusses Need for 'Peaceful' Solution

BK0307145291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad and Klaus Jacobi, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs, have stressed the need for finding a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem. At a meeting in Islamabad today, they said any solution to this issue should ensure mass support of the Afghan people themselves.

Klaus Jacobi, while discussing the Kashmir problem, expressed his grave concern over massive human rights violations in the occupied territory. Mr. Wasim Sajjad said the world community should exert its pressure for the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir to solve this problem. Kashmir problem has risen because of the denial of the right of self determination to its people.

Protest Lodged on Afghan Border, Air Violations

BK0407143091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 4 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan has lodged a strong protest over serious violations of Pakistani territory and airspace by Afghan troops in Waziristan, Khyber Agency, Kurram Agency and Chaman during May and June. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned at the Foreign Office today and told that the entire responsibility for these violations and unprovoked attacks lies on the Kabul administration.

Minister Accuses Premier of 'Illegal' Steps

BK0307122691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 3 Jul 91

[Text] The minister for Kashmir affairs, Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, has described the steps taken yesterday by the interim prime minister of Azad Kashmir as illegal and unconstitutional. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this morning, he said Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathore's party had been defeated squarely in the elections. He impressed upon Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathore to accept the results of the fair and free elections with open heart. Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan said Mr. Rathore should not take any illegal and unconstitutional step which would adversely affect the liberation movement now at a crucial stage in the occupied territory.

Replying to another question, the minister for Kashmir affairs said under Article 56 of the constitution of Azad Kashmir, the government of Pakistan could take action against the interim prime minister for any unconstitutional and illegal act.